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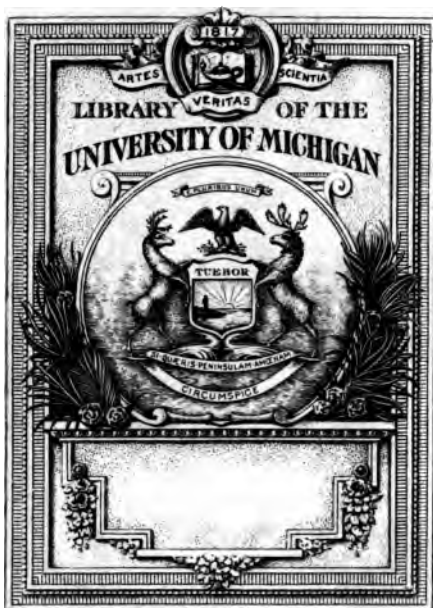
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THE GIFT OF
Prof. Fred Morley

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*The Genius of Biography directing British
Youth to the Temple of Honor, in the path
of Industry & Perseverance.*

Published by Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme & Co. in Paternoster Row, London.

THE
BRITISH NEPOS:

CONSISTING OF

THE LIVES

OF

ILLUSTRIOUS BRITONS,

WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES BY THEIR VIRTUES, TALENTS
OR REMARKABLE ADVANCEMENT IN LIFE ;

WITH

INCIDENTAL PRACTICAL REFLECTIONS.

BY WILLIAM MAVOR, LL.D.

A NEW EDITION,

IMPROVED AND ENLARGED.

WITH TWENTY-FOUR PORTRAITS.

Hic manus, ob patriam pugnando vulnera passi :
Quique sacerdotes casti, dum vita manebat :
Quique pii vates, et Phœbo digna locuti :
Inventas aut qui vitam excoluere per artes :
Quique sui memores alios fecere merendo. VIRGIL.

LONDON :

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New-Street-Square.

1916



~~WILLIAM MAJOR~~
TO
THE MOST NOBLE
THE MARQUIS OF HASTINGS,

GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA,

&c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

IN presenting to the public a new edition of a work which has gained the most flattering approbation, I am happy to embrace the opportunity afforded me, of evincing a small share of respect where I feel respect to be so justly due. The good and the great have ever been the models your lordship has kept in view; and among the illustrious dead whom it has been my task to hold up as mirrors to the rising generation, few, very few, in the estimation of the living, rank higher, for every quality that adorns the man and the hero, than the Marquis of Hastings.

That it may be late, however, before the future biographer can do full justice to your various merits, by enrolling you in the catalogue of departed British Worthies; and that you may long enjoy the applause of an enlightened nation which you have studied to serve, and the far better congratulations of a mind conscious of worth, is the fervent prayer of

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most dutiful
chaplain and servant,

WILLIAM MAJOR.

Rectory, Woodstock,
June 4. 1819.



86
Professor F. J. Morley
18-26-42

PREFACE

TO

THE FIRST EDITION

THE propriety of a judicious biographical manual for the use of Schools is so obvious, that the author of the following pages is confident most persons will be struck with the existing deficiency as soon as it is named, and wonder that no attempt has hitherto been made to supply it. Such was the impression produced on his mind when he contemplated the various aids to education which modern times have produced; and yet found no work on the subject of Biography that could be recommended to youth without reserve, or indeed appeared to be intended for their exclusive use. Example is universally allowed to be more powerful than precept; but so contracted is the sphere of action, so limited the field of observation, in our early years, that unless the memoirs of eminent persons open sources of knowledge, or offer objects for imitation, how are we to avoid the danger of irregular conduct or vicious habits? How are we to catch the flame of emulation, or aspire to the laurels of desert?

It is one great advantage of classical studies, to those who are fortunate enough to enjoy them, that in acquiring the languages of Greece and Rome, we insensibly contract an acquaintance with some of the most illustrious characters of antiquity, and are partially admitted into their venerable society. We learn to accompany a SOLON and a LYCURGUS in their legislative labours; we hear a PLATO and a SOCRATES philosophise, a HOMER and a VIRGIL

sing. From a TULLY we are early warmed by the glow of eloquence, with the love of our country; from a PLINY we imbibe sentiments that heighten the social and domestic affections, and endear man to man. At the contemplation of such monsters as the classic page sometimes portrays, the ingenuous mind revolts: a TIBERIUS, a NERO, or a SEJANUS, rouses the indignant feelings of the soul; and we learn to appreciate and execrate the sanguinary tyrant and the worthless minion, amidst the splendour of usurped power, and the flattery of grovelling sycophants.

But the characters of those who acted on a distant theatre, and have long since retired from the scene, are much less calculated to make an impression than such as have risen nearer our own times, and are connected with us by the ties of country, religion, and manners.

The ancient models, however excellent, are not capable of being uniformly copied, nor do they strike with the same force as the modern. Their virtues and their vices are to be estimated according to a different standard; they had neither the same views, nor the same incitements to action or forbearance. The spirit of valour, the sense of justice, and the fervid love of their country, were eminently conspicuous in some Greek and Roman characters which posterity will ever regard with admiration; while others reached such heights of lettered fame by the vigour of their genius, as almost to check the competition of succeeding ages. Reason however bids us confess, that the heroism of the best was frequently sullied by barbarity; that their inflexible justice savoured of cruelty, and their partial attachments were unfriendly to a generous philanthropy; while their learning and manners were tinged by

the gross maxims and the cruel or superstitious practices of pagan theology.

In a certain degree the virtues of the ancients ought to inspire emulation, and are worthy of being precedents to all posterity; but that soft charm which a pure religion and more liberal notions diffuse over Christian manners, that animating prospect which is now held out to encourage laudable endeavours, and those terrors which are denounced against nefarious actions, could not operate on classical ages, because they were unknown.

Hence when we wish to stimulate or to warn, we ought to have recourse to such examples as will more immediately allure by their practicability, or deter by their consequences. We ought to single out those who have been born under the same government, who have enjoyed the same privileges, and who have been actuated by the same motives both present and future. A coincidence of original situation, however remote the end; a conviction that what has been the passport to honour or fame may still serve to conduct to the same result; will infallibly incite the youthful breast to pant for similar rewards, by pursuing the same line of conduct. He who emulates, will thus find in the object of his emulation an incentive to hope, or an antidote against despair; a guide in all difficulties, and a silent monitor that cannot wound his pride. — But BIOGRAPHY is not valuable only as an example to imitate, but as a beacon to warn. The impartial distribution of posthumous fame or censure must have some effect on the most callous and unprincipled. The thought of being handed down to posterity in colours of infamy, must frequently repress the vicious machination, and forbid the atrocious deed. The love of reputation was implanted in our

natures for the 'wisest and noblest end. Few possess that unenviable magnanimity which can render them indifferent to public opinion ; or are so sunk in the apathy of vice, as to feel no melody in the sound of deserved applause.

- To praise desert can scarcely fail to be a stimulus to virtuous actions. Those who have benefited or enlightened mankind, should receive commendation with no niggardly hand. The flowers strewed on the grave of merit, are the most grateful incense to living worth. How often has the sight of the monuments in Westminster-abbey inspired the martial enthusiasm, the flame of patriotism, or the emulation of genius, in the youthful breast ! There are generous passions in the soul of man which frequently lie dormant till some exciting cause serves to wake their susceptibility, and gives impulse to their native direction. Even a well-written amiable life has tempted many to live well. •

Impressed with the truth of those remarks, the author has studied to lay before the public a selection of the lives of those Britons who have rendered themselves illustrious by their virtues or their talents in various spheres of action ; compiled in such a manner as to sketch the prominent features of conduct, character, and situation, rather than record the detail of ordinary events.* To catch the leading traits of juvenile propensity, to mark the steps that in riper years led to honour, and to point out the miscarriages that prevented success, have been his principal aim. He has sometimes endeavoured to

* The " Lives of Distinguished Persons," by CORNELIUS NEPOS, a book constantly read in classical schools, as it first suggested the idea and title of this volume, also served as a kind of model in its execution.

instruct by contrast, but more commonly to animate by models worthy of imitation. If the catalogue be thought too small, or the incidents too few, let it be remembered that he writes for youth *alone*; that he neither wished to bewilder their judgment, burden their memory, nor tax their pocket, by the size of his volume.

It would have been much easier to extend his plan than to confine it within such moderate limits, but it was unnecessary to add to the numerous works on general biography already before the public. They have passed the tests of criticism, and are valued as they deserve by the accomplished scholar. Happy will the present author be to find that parents and instructors of youth deem *his* manual deserving their patronage, and adapted to the use of those for whom it is designed. The motives which prompted a publication on this plan, cannot be wrong: if he has failed to realise his ideas, it is only because it is easier to project than to execute; to know what is right, than to be able to perform it. To the candour of the public he commits himself and his work, the first of its kind hitherto attempted in this country: he asks no praise but the praise of meaning well; he fears no censure but that which must arise from a conscientiousness of voluntary error or neglect.

1798.

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THE
BRITISH NEPOS;
CONSISTING OF
LIVES OF ILLUSTRIOUS BRITONS

ALFRED THE GREAT.

Born 849. — Died about 900.

In whatever light we consider Alfred, whether as a legislator, a hero, or a king, we shall have reason to pronounce him one of the greatest and the best of men. It therefore seems peculiarly proper to commence this manual, which is intended as a mirror for youth, by briefly recording the eventful life of one of the earliest luminaries of this island; and the most brilliant example, perhaps, of talents, enterprise, patience, fortitude, and universal virtue, that the volume of history unfolds.

This accomplished prince was the youngest son of Ethelwolf; and grandson of Egbert, under whom the kingdoms of the Saxon heptarchy were first connected into one state. He was born at Wantage, in Berkshire; and gave early indications of those virtues and abilities which, in the sequel, were instrumental in saving his country from utter subversion. His father, who was fitter for a monk than for a king; and who entertained a profound veneration for the see of Rome, which increased with his years; carried this his favourite son to the papal court, when very young: and, soon after their return, again sent the young prince thither with a splendid retinue; where, a report being spread of the death of Ethelwolf, pope Leo the Third gave him the royal unction, though still a boy, and (as the youngest of five brothers) very remote from any

prospect of a throne. It is probable, however, that the early genius of Alfred gave his holiness presages of future greatness; or, perhaps, by this ceremony the pope meant to assume the power for which his successors afterwards contended, of conferring kingdoms at pleasure. The novelty and grandeur of the scenes which Rome displayed to the youthful hero, made an impression on his mind which was never afterwards effaced; and he profited more by his own quickness of apprehension, than by the partiality of the pope, who had destined him to be a king.

After his second return from Rome, his father made him the idol of his fondest but misguided affection. He indulged him in every pleasure; and so neglected his education, that when he was twelve years of age he was still ignorant of the lowest elements of literature. His mother, having a taste for Saxon poetry, encouraged her son, by rewards adapted to his juvenile years, to commit some verses to memory. The noble and elevated sentiments with which nature had endowed him were now roused into action. Not satisfied with reciting, he speedily learnt to read his native tongue; and afterwards acquired a knowledge of Latin, which, opening new sources of mental improvement to him, fanned the ingenuous ardour that lay smothered in his breast.

Ethelwolf divided his property and his kingdoms among his sons with impartial affection. Alfred, being exempted from the cares of sovereignty, devoted much of his time to literary pursuits. He had, however, frequent opportunities of displaying his courage against the Danes; and his three elder brothers dying after short reigns, he was appointed minister and general to Ethelred, who next assumed the government. In a battle fought soon afterwards, Ethelred was mortally wounded; and Alfred, in the twenty-second year of his age, was called, to his unspeakable regret, from learned leisure, in which he took the most sincere delight, to the defence, not the enjoyment, of a crown.

The Danes were now ravaging the country; and scarcely

had he time to bury his brother, before he was obliged to take the field against them with inferior numbers. The enemy, however, accepted terms of accommodation, and agreed to leave the kingdom ; but no sooner were they at a distance from a power to which they had reluctantly yielded, than they renewed their devastations ; and fresh swarms pouring in from the north, they penetrated into Dorsetshire, the very centre of Alfred's dominions. Again they were obliged to accept a treaty of the same purport as that which they had lately violated ; but, with singular perfidy, they seized the first opportunity of falling on Alfred's army ; and, having put it to the rout, obtained possession of Exeter.

The spirit of the prince rose with the dangers he was called to encounter. He collected new forces ; and pressed the foe with such vigour, that, after fighting eight battles in one year, he reduced them to the utmost extremity. Still, however, the love of peace was superior to a passion for military glory in the heart of Alfred : he listened to new proposals for accommodation ; and insisted only that they should retire from his dominions, and suffer no further incursions of their countrymen. But during the very conclusion of this liberal treaty, news was brought that a fresh band of invaders had landed, and surprised Chippenham, then a town of some importance, and were carrying fire and sword through the heart of the kingdom.

This last calamity reduced the English to despair. Each thought of his own preservation : the authority of the king was disregarded ; and all his eloquence and his heroism could not inspire them with resolution to make another effort in defence of their liberties and homes. In this dilemma, Alfred prudently laid aside the ensigns of royalty, dismissed his attendants, and, in the meanest attire, endeavoured to conceal himself from the fury of his foes. History relates that he sought an asylum for some time with one of his own cowherds ; whose wife, ignorant of the condition of her guest, left him one day in charge of some cakes which were toasting : but the mind of Alfred .

being intent on higher objects, he neglected his trust, and suffered them to burn; on which the honest housewife scolded him well; and observed, that as he had no objection to eat her warm cakes, he might have taken some care in toasting them. Alfred was too magnanimous to resent this taunt: it doubtless excited only a secret smile.

The Danes becoming less ardent in their progress, he retired into the isle of Athelney in Somersetshire, a spot formed by the inundations of the rivers Thone and Parret, where he established himself; and gradually collecting a few of his most faithful adherents, whom he inspired with hopes of seeing better days, he supported them in this sequestered and almost inaccessible retreat, by occasional excursions in the environs.

After lying twelve months in this concealment, meditating projects of delivering his country, he was informed that a party of his followers had routed a considerable body of the Danes, killed their chiefs, and taken the famous raven or enchanted standard.

This omen of success inspired him with fresh resolution to take the field, and to discover himself to his subjects; but, prudently reflecting that caution should precede enterprise, he disguised himself in the habit of a harper, and thus reconnoitred the enemy's camp in perfect security. His music, and his facetious humour, were so acceptable to the Danish prince, that he entertained him for some days; little suspecting the quality of his guest, or the hostile object of his visit.

Finding the enemy sunk in supine security, from their contempt of the English, he summoned his nobles to bring their followers into the field; and by his appearance re-animated their drooping courage, and inspired them with a determination for liberty or death. Immediately taking advantage of this impression, he led his army against the Danes: who, panic-struck at this unexpected attack, made but a feeble resistance, and after great numbers of them were slain, the rest offered an unconditional submission.

Alfred, no less generous than brave, formed a scheme

for converting them from mortal enemies into faithful friends. He assigned them a part of the northern and eastern coasts; on condition that they would embrace Christianity, betake themselves to habits of industry, and form a defence against any future incursions of their countrymen. This lenient and politic measure secured the peace of Alfred's reign for several years; during which time he applied himself with patriotic zeal and diligence to perfect the civil and military institutions, to rebuild the ruined cities (particularly London, which had been sacked with circumstances of great cruelty, and destroyed,) and to erect numerous castles and forts. At the same time, availing himself of the insular situation of Britain, he was the first that raised a navy; which he instinctively foresaw would be the future bulwark of his kingdom.

But, as ships are of little use without sailors, he promoted navigation by every possible means, and in time trained a body of men courageous and hardy; and prompt, whenever called, to defend their native coasts from hostile aggression. Thus, to Alfred we are indebted, not only for many wise and salutary institutions which still have a sensible influence on our laws and government, but most particularly for establishing a mode of defence, to which we owe our principal glory and security.

So rapid seems to have been the increase of population in Scandinavia, for some centuries, that colonies were sent out from those extensive regions in quick succession, either to seek new settlements, or to enrich their native country with the plunder of more southern nations. Accustomed to warfare, restrained by no ties divine or human, these barbarians carried devastation wherever they went; and proved the terror and the scourge of countries with which they could have no quarrel, or plausible pretext for enmity.

Even the fame and prowess of Alfred could not, for any long continuance, guard his coasts from violation. The Danes tried to excel him in the art of naval war; and made frequent descents, in some of which they did consi-

erable damage. On one occasion, however, when they had sailed up the Thames, and built a fort which commanded London, and numbers of their ships had been drawn up the Lea, he contrived to divert the course of that river, and to leave the vessels dry; which extraordinary enterprise obliged the enemy to make a precipitate retreat.

Still they returned with new means of annoyance; and when they found themselves unable to cope with Alfred's fleets in open fight, they carried on a piratical kind of warfare, more galling than any regular attack. A considerable number of these freebooters, however, having been made prisoners, were brought to trial at Winchester; and justly sentenced to be hanged, as the common enemies of mankind.

This instance of well-timed severity, added to the formidable naval and military force which Alfred now commanded, procured him tranquillity for the remainder of his reign. During the last three years, he was at full leisure to devote his time and his talents to arts the most glorious for a king to cultivate: he softened the ferocious manners of his subjects, by the encouragement which he gave to literature, and taught them the value of industry, by securing to them the possession of property, and diffusing prosperity and happiness over a land to which these blessings had long been unknown.

While engaged in these truly great pursuits, he was arrested by the hand of death, in the vigour of his age and faculties, after a splendid reign of twenty-nine years: during which he had fought an almost unparalleled number of battles with general success; and had deservedly acquired the titles of Great, and Founder of the English Monarchy.

Contrasted with the brightest ornaments of either ancient or modern times, the character of Alfred will appear to advantage. Whether regarded as a citizen, a king, a legislator, or a hero, he presents the finest model for imitation, that even the power of fancy could delineate. In him the virtues were so well tempered, and so justly

blended, that none exceeded its proper limits. He possessed the most enterprising spirit, with the coolest prudence ; the most steady perseverance, with the mildest flexibility ; the most rigid justice, with the gentlest mercy. He knew how to reconcile the vigour of authority, with the arts that conciliate love ; and to give the sovereign command the air of a friendly recommendation. With the highest capacity, and the most ardent inclination for science, he united the most shining talents for active life. His civil and military qualifications equally claim our admiration, and keep our judgment in suspense which ought the most to be the object of our applause.

Nature, too, as if anxious to produce a finished model of excellence, had bestowed on Alfred every personal attraction that can please the eye or engage the heart. He was well made, active, and vigorous ; dignified in his mien and air ; with an open, engaging countenance, which never failed to attract regard.

But the character of Alfred is too illustrious to be dismissed without a more particular enumeration of its leading features and brilliant energies ; for to him can be traced the origin of several of the most valuable privileges and wisest institutions of our country.

After he had repressed the incursions of the Danes, and internal tranquillity gave him an opportunity of exerting his talents for government with effect, he began with establishing the principles of justice. Having divided the kingdom into counties, and these into hundreds and tithings, and established that incomparable mode of trial by juries, which is the best security of our liberties, both personal and political ; in order to guide the magistrates in the administration of justice, he framed a body of laws which, though now lost, are not obsolete, but still operate in full force under the name of the COMMON LAW ; — an inestimable code of jurisprudence, by which the rights of individuals are most sacredly guarded, and public and

private delinquents rendered amenable to society and their country.

Though a convention of the states, on extraordinary emergencies, seems to have been of much earlier date than the reign of Alfred, yet to him we owe their regular periodical meetings, which he fixed to be twice a year in London; a city which he had himself repaired and beautified, and constituted the capital of his kingdom. In these assemblies, laws were enacted by the advice of the most enlightened and distinguished subjects; while on ordinary occasions the monarch was directed by a kind of privy council, composed of some among the principal persons who attended his court.

When Alfred ascended the throne, he found his people in a state of ignorance and barbarism. He himself complains, that on his accession he could not find one person, south of the Thames, who was capable of translating the Latin service into his mother-tongue. In every age, and among all nations, it has been found that purity of morals has kept pace with the extension of sound knowledge and good principles. As a sovereign, he saw it was his duty and his interest to promote a spirit of learning among his subjects; and his own example must have furnished a very powerful incentive. He not only excelled all the English of his time in general literature; but, by encouraging learned foreigners to settle here, and by an impartial appreciation of merit, he rendered science both honourable and advantageous. He built and endowed many schools; and if the illustrious university of Oxford does not own Alfred for its original founder, which is a point that has been disputed, it is generally allowed that to him it is indebted for some of its most valuable privileges, and much of its early reputation and distinction.

As genius is a plant which does not always or exclusively spring in a patrician soil, and without the fostering hand of patronage it can seldom bring its fruits to perfection, this sagacious monarch not only sowed the

seeds of knowledge, but took care, when they shot forth, to rear them with parental attention. The vicious and the illiterate, whatever other distinctions they might claim, were never the objects of Alfred's regard ; while merit and science engrossed, as they deserved, all his favour, and every reward in his power to bestow. Indeed, this was the golden age of literature among the Anglo-Saxons ; the harvest was abundant, and the labourers were not more in number than could obtain an ample recompense for their toil. The penetrating mind of the sovereign qualified him to discriminate between real and specious claims to preferment : intrigue could not deceive him ; and interest was useless, when judgment, abilities, and probity were to decide the prize.

Of the private life of Alfred we have few memorials ; but enough to show that he was one of the most amiable of men, in every domestic relation. Success could not elevate him to the extravagances of joy, nor the heaviest calamities affect him with unmanly despair. He inspired his children with a portion of his own genius, and qualified them for the important destinies to which they were born. To his friends he was open, cheerful, and communicative ; to his enemies he showed no resentment after they were disarmed ; and to his country he was a truly paternal guardian. A remarkable economist of his time, he devoted one part to sleep and the refection of his body by diet and exercise ; another to the dispatch of business ; and the third to study and devotion : and as, in those rude ages, the art of measuring hours was very imperfect, he used tapers of equal length, which he fixed in lanterns ; and when one was burnt out, it warned him that a new avocation awaited him. By this wise distribution of his time, though subject to frequent interruptions by ill health, and though he was obliged to fight in person fifty-six battles by sea and land, he acquired more knowledge, and composed more books, some of which are still extant, in a life of no extraordinary length, than many, possessed of genius and leisure, with all their laborious

researches, have been able to perform in more fortunate ages, though letters were the sole object of their pursuit.

As the welfare and happiness of society are not promoted by literature only, but also by the cultivation of humbler arts, which come into daily use and are equally necessary to all, he did not neglect to encourage mechanical industry; and no inventor or improver of whatever could tend to embellish life, or add to its comforts, was suffered to go unrewarded. He likewise introduced and encouraged manufactures; and, by his zeal for naval and commercial enterprise, first taught his subjects the art of defending themselves at home, and the advantages of an interchange of produce and labour with foreign countries.

To complete the character of this great hero, king, and scholar, he was temperate, pious, and devout. Knowing that states must rise or fall, according to their attention to religion, or their neglect of its precepts, he rebuilt and restored almost every monastery in his dominions, which the fury of the Danes had brought to ruin; he also founded and improved others, and gave many substantial proofs of his regard for the welfare of the church in all its component parts.

Thus, in the latter part of the reign of Alfred, justice was purely administered, religion and its professors were respected, and the nation flourished in peace, happiness, and security. The vigour of the sovereign's genius pervaded every department of the state. It is even said, the police was so excellent, that golden bracelets were hung up near the highways, and no one dared to touch them. Yet, amidst this firm support of legal authority, Alfred preserved the most inviolable regard to the liberties and constitutional rights of the people. His last will, among other pathetic passages and bequests to posterity, contains this ever-memorable sentiment, the best pledge of his being a truly PATRIOT KING: "*It is just the English should for ever remain as free as their own thoughts.*"

FRIAR BACON.

Born 1214. — Died 1294.

From 15th John, to 22d Edward I.

AMONG those who have displayed superior abilities and penetration, in an age when the gloom of ignorance was too thick to be pierced by common minds, the illustrious Friar Bacon will ever obtain a distinguished rank. At any period the vigour of his endowments would have raised him above the mass of common men; but at the period in which he lived, his high attainments in knowledge, contrasted with the prevailing general ignorance render him an object of profound respect, and challenge the applause and admiration of all posterity.

Roger Bacon was born near Ilchester, in Somersetshire, of respectable parents, in the year 1214. He began his literary career at Oxford; and thence removed to the university of Paris, which was then the grand centre of science and learning. Here the lustre of his talents began to be distinguished; and his progress in the sciences rendered him the ornament of that institution, and gained him some very valuable friends. He was particularly caressed by his amiable and learned countryman, Robert Grossthead, afterwards bishop of Lincoln, whose patronage in this case at once gave and reflected honour.

About the twenty-sixth year of his age, having acquired all the learning of the times, (only, however, to detect its fallacy, and to substitute something better in its room,) he returned to Oxford, and assumed the habit of the Franciscan order. The leisure which this situation allowed him, he devoted to the ardent prosecution of experimental philosophy, — his favourite study, in which he expended considerable sums, and made very important discoveries. He at once emancipated himself from the trammels of the existing system; pierced the subtleties

of the scholastic divinity with an intuitive perspicacity ; and showed so little respect for the reigning absurdities, though even then rendered venerable by time, that he declared the whole works of Aristotle were fit only to be burnt !

By his extraordinary talents, and astonishing progress in sciences, which were then concealed from the rest of the world, or only known to a distinguished few, he could not fail to awaken envy; the constant attendant on worth and genius ; and the illiterate fraternity to which he belonged having neither sense nor diligence sufficient to keep pace with his discoveries, and unable to brook his intellectual superiority, spread among the vulgar a notion that he maintained an intercourse with evil spirits. Under this ridiculous pretence, which only convinces us how much his attainments were above the level of common understandings, he was restrained from reading lectures ; his writings were confined to his convent ; and finally, when he had reached the sixty-fourth year of his age, he was imprisoned in his cell.

Still, however, being indulged with the use of his books, he did not suffer his mind to be diverted from the great object of his inquiries ; but extended his knowledge, corrected his former labours, and augmented them by some new and curious disquisitions. His *opus majus*, or Great Work, which is still extant, had been prepared at the request of pope Clement the Fourth ; and after lying ten years in confinement, he addressed a treatise to pope Nicholas the Fourth on the means of avoiding the infirmities of old age, and importuned that pontiff for his release. The effect of this application is unknown, — it certainly was not immediately regarded. In the sequel, however, being supported by several persons of distinction, Bacon was at length set free : and spent the remainder of his days in tranquillity, in the college of his order, at Oxford ; where he died in the eightieth year of his age, on the 11th of January, 1294.

Such are the few particulars which even the most in-

quisitive have been able to discover concerning this honour of his country and pride of human nature; who darted forth his light in the midst of monastic bigotry, like a star of the first magnitude in a dark hemisphere. He was incomparably the greatest philosopher of his time; and in many respects, may stand in competition with the most eminent of more enlightened ages. His writings are elegant, terse, and nervous; and adorned with such exquisite observations on nature, that he may be said to have unlocked her treasury. In chemistry he stood unrivalled; and according to Dr. Freind, almost every useful invention and operation which modern practice has adopted in this science, may be traced to its origin in his various works. He describes the preparation of gunpowder in the most precise terms; yet the Jesuit Barthol Schwartz, who lived several ages after, must doubtless be allowed the honour or disgrace of pointing out the destructive purposes, to which this composition may be applied.

From an attentive perusal of the works of this great luminary, it will be found that Bacon was a linguist and grammarian; that he was well versed in the theory and practice of perspective; that he understood the use and manufacture of convex and concave glasses; that the camera obscura, the burning-glass, and the telescope, were familiar to him; that he was intimately acquainted with geography and astronomy; that he was aware of the great error in the calendar, assigned the cause, and proposed the remedy; that he was an adept in chemistry; and possessed great knowledge of the healing art; in fine, that he was an able mathematician, an expert mechanic, a sound logician, and a rational theologian.

But with all his acquirements, solid and valuable as they are, much dross was necessarily mixed. This, however, was the fault of the age, and not of the man. Judicial astrology was then in high repute, and Bacon was a dupe to all its illusions. He tells us in one place that life may be preserved by spermaceti, aloes, and

dragon's flesh, and that immortality itself may be secured by the philosopher's stone. These were the reveries of the times ; in some respects it was impossible to submit them to the test of experiment, and theory alone will ever be vague. He seems to have been unacquainted with that noble discovery, the polarity of the magnetic needle ; but he has largely discoursed on the hazel rod of divination.

“ Yet notwithstanding some absurdities and chimeras, this Bacon,” says Voltaire, “ must be allowed to be a very great man, for the age in which he lived. Imagine to yourself the Samoides and Ostiacs to have read Aristotle and Avicenna, and you will have an idea of what mankind then were. At that period all knowledge was confined to the Arabians, who were the philosophers of Christendom.”—“ The king's fool,” adds this witty author, “ was always a native ; but the physician or doctor was either an Arabian or a Jew.”

JOHN WICKLIFF.

Born about 1324.—Died 1384.

From 17th Edward II. to 7th Richard II.

IF we trace many of the greatest events and the most important discoveries to their source, we shall have the satisfaction to reflect, that some of the most astonishing and beneficial, which history records, have in a great measure originated from our illustrious countrymen ; among whom Wickliff will maintain just celebrity, as long as a love of truth and a detestation of imposture and intolerance shall actuate the human heart.

This precursor of the Reformation, which Luther and others had the honour of completing, was a native of Wickliff, near Richmond in Yorkshire ; but of his family.

or his early years, we have no account. Being designed for the church, he was first sent to Queen's College, Oxford; but the advantages for study in that newly established house not answering his expectations, he removed to Merton College, in the same university, then esteemed one of the most learned societies in Europe.

At that period, a deep skill in dialectics, and an intimate acquaintance with the scholastic divinity, were the grand passports to fame. To a man of Wickliff's penetrating genius, these "difficult trifles" soon gave way; and he quickly became a very subtle disputant, and reigned in the schools without a competitor. It is probable, however, that he mastered the fashionable studies, only to detect their fallacy and insignificance. In divinity he appears to have early chalked out a simpler path than any of his contemporaries had either the sense or the resolution to devise: he drew his tenets from the Scriptures alone, and rejected the comments of the schoolmen, and the dogmas of human authority.

Having made himself conspicuous by his defence of the university against the mendicant friars, who pleaded that their practice was of gospel institution, he acquired the reputation of a man of profound learning and abilities; and in consequence was chosen master of Baliol Hall, and soon after warden of Canterbury College, by its founder archbishop Islip. A schism had for some time agitated this society, which was composed of regulars and seculars; and though its head now belonged to the latter order, this did not give such a preponderance as to ensure quiet. Some regulars, who had been ejected by the founder, taking advantage of the promotion of Simon Langham to the primacy, a man who had been bred up with all the monastic prejudices, found in him a zealous patron; and sentence of expulsion was passed on Wickliff and his associates, in their turn.

Such a flagrant piece of injustice raised a general outcry, and Wickliff was advised to make an appeal to the pope; but through the stratagems of Langham, and the

irresolute policy of Urban, after the business had been protracted to a great length, the ejection was confirmed.

On such casual pivots do the minds of men turn, that the virtue of pure and unmixed principle is seldom to be found. There can be little doubt that this decision finally determined Wickliff, in his opposition to the holy see. In his previous writings, however, he had inveighed freely against the exactions and corruptions of the papal court; and now the whole strength of his excellent understanding was directed to expose its errors, and to lessen its influence.

Notwithstanding his expulsion, his credit with the university was not lost. He took his degree of doctor in divinity with much distinction; and the professor's chair in that science being vacant, he was chosen to fill it; not only in compliment to his acknowledged merit, but as a remuneration for his loss.

Wickliff had now attained the summit of his ambition. His station afforded him the opportunity he had been anxiously looking for, of throwing new lights on the established religion of Europe. His reason and his reflection convinced him, that the Romish religion was replete with errors in theory, and that the lives of its teachers were still worse in practice. His inveteracy against the monks was inflamed; and he omitted no opportunity of painting them in their genuine colours of infamy. - But amidst all his zeal for truth, and his antipathy to the interested supporters of a false and domineering religion, he proceeded with caution and circumspection. He first led his hearers into habits of argumentation; and artfully raised objections, rather that others might see through the delusion, than that he might have the credit and the danger of exposing it himself.

When he had accustomed men to think, he attempted a higher flight, and taught them to think justly. He removed the veil of prejudice by gradual but reiterated

efforts: he let in the light by degrees, and in such proportions as he found the eyes of a people, so long used to darkness, could endure it. Though of a known hostility to the encroachments of the church of Rome, its most zealous partizans had some difficulty in finding out a plausible pretext to silence him: but at last they succeeded so far as to deprive him of his professorship; and probably indulged the hope that, as the theatre of his exertion was closed, his principles would soon be forgotten.

It happened, however, otherwise. The insolence of the pope in claiming from Edward the Third the homage which had been paid by his weak predecessor, John, roused the indignant feelings of John of Gaunt duke of Lancaster; who during the decline of his father, had the principal direction of public affairs; and the pen of Wickliff was successfully employed in defence of his sovereign and his fellow-subjects. This proved the means of introducing him to court. The duke of Lancaster, who had liberal notions in religion, for the time in which he lived, and was irritated by recent vexations from the clergy, seeing their animosity against Wickliff, took him under his protection, and treated him with a kindness proportioned to the enmity which he bore towards his adversaries.

The grievances of the country from the papal domination had then reached such a height, that it was resolved to send an embassy to the pope to treat for the liberties of the church of England. At the head of this mission, which proceeded to Bruges, were the bishop of Bangor and Dr. Wickliff. On the part of the see of Rome, they were met by men in whom it could wholly confide. The negociation was carried on with great ability on both sides; and after its sittings had been protracted for two years, the English agents prevailed so far as to gain a stipulation that his holiness should no longer dispose of any benefices in England. This treaty, however, was eluded in a flagrant degree; but in consequence of the

talents which Wickliff had displayed in it, he was presented by the king to the living of Lutterworth in Leicestershire, and soon after obtained a prebendal stall in the church of Westbury, in the county of Gloucester.

During his residence at Bruges, the views of the church of Rome had been gradually developed to the inquisitive and penetrating Wickliff; and he discovered it to be as corrupt in principle, as he had long known it to be depraved in practice. He now threw off the mask which he had worn so long, and thought it unworthy of his character to temporize. The pretended successor of St. Peter himself did not escape his invectives: the papal infallibility, usurpations, pride, avarice, and tyranny, were the frequent topics of his declamation; and the appropriate epithet of Antichrist seems to have been first conferred on him by this great English reformer.

Having sown the seed which he had reason to believe would ripen into a full harvest of shame to the church of Rome, he retired to his living in Leicestershire, in order to avoid the gathering storm. But his privacy, and his distance from Oxford, the scene of his honourable labours, gave his enemies fresh spirits. A papal bull was forwarded to Sudbury archbishop of Canterbury and Courtney bishop of London, to secure this arch-heretic; and at the same time the king and the university were importuned to favour the prosecution.

Wickliff, being cited to appear before the bishop of London at St. Paul's church on a certain day, found himself obliged to notice the unexpected summons. In this situation he applied to his patron the duke of Lancaster: who, though he wished to screen him wholly, judged it expedient to sacrifice something to appearances; and only promised to attend him in person to his trial, accompanied by Percy earl-marshal of England. When they reached St. Paul's, the court was already convened, and they had some difficulty in procuring admission. The bishop, vexed to see Wickliff so honourably attended, let fall some peevish expressions; which the high-spirited and indig-

nant Lancaster being unable to brook, he retorted them with great warmth, and even began to threaten. "Sooner," said the duke, in a kind of half-whisper, "than bear such usage from a bishop, I will pull him by the hair of the head out of the church." The populace, however, hearing this menace, the whole assembly was instantly in a ferment. The general cry was, that they would stand by their bishop to the last breath; and the confusion rose to such a height, that the court broke up in disorder, and its proceedings were never resumed.

The tumult, however, did not end so soon. The duke, in the agitation of his passions, immediately proceeded to the house of peers, where he preferred a bill to deprive the city of London of its privileges, and to alter its jurisdiction. In consequence of this, all was uproar and riot; and he was obliged to quit the city in precipitation, till the rage of the populace had subsided.

Wickliff again sought the retirement of Lutterworth; and proceeded in his great work, — a translation of the Scriptures into English. He appears to have met with no more molestation after this, till the death of Edward the Third; when Richard the Second, son of Edward the Black Prince, only eleven years of age, ascended the throne of his grandfather.

On this occasion the duke of Lancaster, uncle to the young king, aspired to be sole regent; but parliament put the office into commission, and allowed him only a single voice in the executive council. The clergy, who perceived his diminished influence, began their prosecution against Wickliff anew. Articles of accusation were drawn up; and the pope, by several bulls, ordered his imprisonment, or at least cited him to make his personal appearance at Rome within the space of three months, unless he should retract his heretical opinions.

The bulls were treated with neglect by the people in general, and by parliament with contempt. The bishop of London alone entered into the spirit of the pope's mandate; but scarcely had he taken the preliminary steps

in this business, when he received a peremptory order from the duke of Lancaster, not to enforce imprisonment, for the sake of opinion only, as that was a measure contrary to the laws of England.

The bishop, being intimidated at this interference, contented himself with citing Wickliff to a provincial synod at Lambeth ; where being questioned as to the articles of his faith, he gave an ambiguous explanation of them. He was therefore dismissed, with an injunction not to preach any more those doctrines which had been objected to ; but his zeal, it appears, was inflamed by this restraint ; and he afterwards enforced his tenets with more ardour than before.

Falling into a dangerous illness at Oxford, some of the mendicant friars, to whom he had ever been an enemy, intruded into his chamber, and admonished him, for the good of his soul, to repent of the injuries which he had done them. Wickliff raised himself in his bed, and with a stern countenance exclaimed, " I shall not die, but live to declare the evil deeds of the friars ;" which resolute expression, we are told, drove away his ghostly monitors in confusion.

Soon after this time, having finished his translation of the Scriptures, he again became particularly obnoxious to the clergy on that account. It had long been a political tenet in the Romish creed, that ignorance is the mother of devotion ; and therefore the Bible had been locked up from the common people. But Wickliff was not satisfied with aiming this new blow at religious tyranny : he next ventured to attack the grand article of transubstantiation, in what he called his *sixteen conclusions*. These conclusions being reluctantly condemned by the chancellor of Oxford, at the instigation of Courtney, who was now primate, Wickliff appealed to the king and parliament : but being deserted by his fickle patron, the duke of Lancaster, who was unwilling to embroil himself any further with the clergy, he was obliged to make a kind of recantation at Oxford ; and by the king's order was expelled

the university, where he had still continued annually to read lectures in divinity.

Again he found an asylum at Lutterworth : but giving fresh provocation by his writings, he roused the keenest resentment in Urban, who then wore the papal crown ; and in all probability would have suffered the utmost which that pontiff could inflict, had not Providence delivered him from human hands. He was struck with a palsy soon after : but still attended divine worship ; till a repetition of this fatal malady carried him off, in his church at Lutterworth, in December 1384. He was buried there ; but after lying in the ground more than forty years unmolested, his bones were taken up and burnt, and the ashes scattered in the air, by order of the reigning pope.

Such was the life and such the end of Wickliff ; a man who may be regarded as one of the brightest ornaments of his country, and as one of those luminaries which Providence raises up and directs as its instrument to enlighten and bless mankind.

“ To this intuitive genius,” says Gilpin, “ Christendom was unquestionably more obliged than to any name in the list of reformers. He opened the gates of darkness ; and let in, not a feeble and glimmering ray, but such an effulgence of light as was never afterwards obscured. He not only loosened prejudices, but advanced such clear incontestible truths as, having once obtained footing, still kept their ground ; and even in an age of reformation, as will appear from his various existing writings, wanted but small amendment.”

GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

Born 1328. — Died 1400.

From 2d Edward III. to 2d Edward IV.

WHOEVER loves to hold dalliance with the muses, and delights to rove through the regions of fancy, will contemplate with pleasure the character of Geoffrey Chaucer; not only as the father of English poetry, and a refiner of the English language, but as one of the brightest and most original geniuses that any age or country has produced.

Though Chaucer was extolled in the highest terms of panegyric by his contemporaries, and has deservedly maintained his reputation with posterity, from some strange fatality we know nothing certain of his parentage, though it probably was genteel; and even the place of his birth is not perfectly ascertained. In his "*Testament of Love*," he calls himself a Londoner: but Woodstock, his future residence, puts in its claim to the honour also of being his native place; and he certainly has rendered it classic ground, by his natural but poetical description of some of its most delightful scenes.

The same uncertainty that attends the history of his birth, attends that of his education. Whether he studied at Oxford or Cambridge, or at both universities successively, is a point much disputed by his biographers: nor can any new light be thrown, at this day, on the subject. That his education was excellent for that age, can scarcely be doubted, from the learning displayed in his works; but that his genius rose far superior to all the advantages of scholastic or academic institution, will admit of no dispute.

Having left the university, he is supposed to have improved himself by travelling into France and the Low-Countries; and on his return, it is partly ascertained that he entered himself a member of the Inner Temple, and

Nepos



Chaucer



Wolsey



Sir Thomas More



Lord Cromwell



Harvey



Crichton

1

for some time prosecuted the study of the law. In a record of this society, published by Speght, the following fact appears : " Geoffrey Chaucer was fined two shillings, for beating a friar in Fleet-street."

But though he might probably pay some attention to law-learning as an accomplishment, there is no reason to think that he ever practised it as a profession. The sprightliness of his genius, the elegance of his form and manners, and the fertility of his endowments, seem early to have attracted the notice of the court : and he particularly devoted himself to the service of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, son of Edward the Third : by whose favour he obtained in marriage Philippa, daughter of Sir Pagan Rouet, and sister of the famous Lady Catharine Swynford, first governess to the Duke's children, and afterwards his wife.

Chaucer was then in the flower of his age, admired for the elegance of his person, and distinguished for every other talent and accomplishment that could render him acceptable in the gay and splendid court of Edward the Third. As that monarch frequently resided at Woodstock, Chaucer had a house near the park-gate : which still retains his name, though it has been almost entirely rebuilt or modernised : and here it is probable that he penned some of his happiest compositions.

After serving for some time as the king's page, he was appointed a commissioner to treat with the republic of Genoa for the hire of some ships ; and on his return, he obtained, among other marks of royal favour, the grant of a pitcher of wine daily. Next year he was made comptroller of the customs of London, for wool and hides ; with a singular proviso, that he should execute that office personally, and not by deputy, and keep the accounts in his own hand-writing. This is a proof that Edward did not promote him for his poetical talents ; for in that case he would certainly have given him a different employment, or imposed less rigid conditions.

Soon after this, Chaucer was appointed to act as guar-

dian to one of the king's wards, an office of both honour and profit; and it appears that his income at that period, was not less than a thousand pounds a year; a sum which in those days enabled him to support a splendid hospitality congenial to his disposition, and to enjoy that ease and affluence which it is so rarely the lot of a poet to possess.

It was in this meridional sunshine of prosperity that he wrote his *Canterbury Tales*; a work which exhibits a striking variety of talents, an union of the sublime and the pathetic; with such a fund of poignant satire, genuine humour, and knowledge of life, as is seldom paralleled. The clergy, both regular and secular, are the frequent objects of his keenest animadversions; and by this he most probably aimed to ingratiate himself the more with his patron the Duke of Lancaster, who had openly espoused the cause of Wickliff. As the flame of genius can with difficulty be separated from a love of liberty, Chaucer himself appears to have entered passionately into the views of that reformer: a conduct, however, which in the sequel involved him in much trouble.

When the Duke of Lancaster found himself obliged to abandon the party of Wickliff, and to retire from public life, for a time, the interest of Chaucer sunk at once; and he became from that instant exposed to all the malice of his patron's opponents. These misfortunes gave rise to that beautiful performance called the *Testament of Love*, written in imitation of Boetius's *Consolation of Philosophy*. Satiated with the active scenes of life, which had deprived him of so many enjoyments, he retired to Woodstock; where he again indulged his passion for study, and revised his former productions. Here he finished his admirable *Treatise on the Astrolabe*; and became so attached to his rural retreat, that even the return of the Duke of Lancaster to favour and power and the marriage of that great man with the sister of Chaucer's wife, could not seduce him from the tranquil scenes he loved.

The sun of prosperity again warmed his evening hour

Chaucer, by this last-mentioned alliance, acquired considerable property and influence: and, when about seventy years of age, quitted Woodstock, for Donnington-castle near Newbury.

Not long afterwards, Henry the Fourth, son of the Duke of Lancaster, mounted the throne; and in the first year of his reign, conferred some marks of his regard on Chaucer. His former grants, however, being annulled, in common with all others passed in the late reign, the venerable bard, in the concluding scene of his life, was obliged to become a solicitor at court for a renewal of his pensions; and though he succeeded in a certain degree, the fatigue of attendance, and his great age, prevented him from enjoying long the royal favours. Falling sick at London, he died October 25th, 1400, in the seventy-second year of his age; with a kind of enviable philosophical composure, as appears from his song of "Flie fro the Prese."

He was buried in Westminster-Abbey: where, in 1556, a monument was erected to his memory by Nicholas Brigham of Oxford, from a just regard for his talents. He left two sons, Thomas and Lewis: the former of whom was speaker of the house of commons in the reign of Henry the Fourth, and passed through several other high offices with reputation and applause.

The private character of Chaucer appears to have been as amiable as his literary attainments were illustrious.—Genteel and complaisant in his manners and address, frank and liberal in his disposition, he was at once the fine gentleman, the easy companion, and the learned writer.

On his poetical and other literary qualifications, it is unnecessary to expatiate. He was the father of English poetry, being the first who wrote original verses in his native tongue. Before his time all poetical compositions here were confined to the French and Latin, or translations from those languages. He was also the first writer in England, to whom the appellation of a poet, in

its genuine dignity, can be with propriety applied. He attempted every species of versification, from the epigram to the epic, and was eminently successful in all.

CARDINAL WOLSEY.

Born 1471. — Died about 1530.

From 10th Edward IV. to 21st Henry VIII.

To repress the aspirings of inordinate ambition, to silence the murmurs of neglected merit, and to pourtray the instability of fortune and the vicissitudes of human life in their most striking colours, it is only necessary to attend to the proud career and chequered fate of the subject of the present article.

Thomas Wolsey, who rose to be archbishop of York, chancellor of England, cardinal, and papal legate, was the son of a butcher at Ipswich. It is probable, however, that his parents possessed some property, and more discernment: for perceiving the bent of his disposition to literature, they put him early to the grammar-school of that town; and such was the maturity of his talents, that he had taken the degree of bachelor of arts at Magdalen-college, Oxford, before he reached his fifteenth year, from which circumstance he obtained the appellation of "the boy bachelor." Soon afterwards, he was admitted to a fellowship in the same college, and in due time nominated to the superintendence of the school belonging to that society.

This situation, which is too frequently the grave of genius and the bar to promotion, proved to Wolsey the original source of his future exaltation. At this seminary were three sons of the marquis of Dorset; and it is reasonable to suppose that a man of Wolsey's ambitious character, was not inattentive to the advantages which he

might derive from such pupils. He assiduously attended to their education: and ingratiated himself so far with both parent and sons, that he obtained an invitation to the country-seat of the marquis, during a vacation; where, by his insinuating manners, his knowledge, and his address, he paved his way to more substantial marks of favour. By this nobleman he was presented, in his twenty-ninth year, to the rectory of Lymington in Somersetshire, his first ecclesiastical preferment; and immediately entered on his new function as a parish-priest.

Here, it is said, the gaiety of his disposition sometimes led him into excesses, and in consequence he was once sentenced to the stocks. This disgusted him with the country; and the justice who had ordered a punishment so disgraceful to a clergyman, had afterwards abundant reason to repent of his severity.

Wolsey's patron dying soon after, he quitted his residence at Lymington, and projected new means of pushing his fortune. In a short time afterwards, he was promoted to be a chaplain to Dr. Dean, archbishop of Canterbury; which however served rather to enlarge his views than conduce to his immediate advancement. It appears, indeed, that the archbishop was extremely partial to him, and assisted to make him better known; but he did not live long enough to reward Wolsey's assiduities, and the latter was again without a patron.

Having now been introduced to the great, he felt his native propensities roused; and ambition stimulated him to be a courtier. An observation frequently made by him was, "that if he could but set one foot in the court, he would soon introduce his whole body." A man of abilities and an aspiring temper, who directs the whole vigour of his mind to one point, will seldom be finally unsuccessful. Wolsey next offered his services to Sir John Nephant, treasurer of Calais, a gentleman in high favour with Henry the Seventh; and his application was well received. Sir John not only made him his chaplain, but being debilitated by age and infirmities, and dis-

covering Wolsey's capacity for business, he committed to him the principal direction of his office ; and in the sequel recommended him in such strong terms of approbation to the king, that his majesty put him on the list of royal chaplains.

Having now arrived in the haven of his wishes, — the court, he assiduously cultivated the acquaintance of the prevailing favourites, Fox bishop of Winchester, and Sir Thomas Lovel, by whom he was zealously patronized ; and was soon after recommended to the king as a person excellently qualified to conduct an important negociation with the emperor Maximilian, who then resided at Bruges.

He managed this business with such address, and brought it so expeditiously to a successful conclusion, that the king was astonished at his political sagacity and prompt decision. The foundation of his fame and future promotion was now effectually laid ; and, as a mark of the esteem in which he was held at court, soon after his return from this embassy, he was made dean of Lincoln.

The death of the king happened in the following year : but Wolsey, who had courted the rising sun, lost no ground by the accession of Henry the Eighth ; on the contrary, he found himself more distinguished than before. In 1510 he was appointed a privy counsellor, canon of Windsor, and registrar of the order of the garter ; besides receiving other tokens of the royal favour. Being thus firmly seated, he, with the usual ingratitude of a courtier, neglected those worthy and deserving friends who had contributed to his advancement, and in a manner concentrated in himself all the beams of royal beneficence.

The young king, who was attached to pleasure with the utmost ardour, averse to application, yet impatient of control, was charmed with a servant who could administer to his gratifications, free him from the fatigue of public business, and yet submit to his caprices without a murmur.

A war with France being resolved on, Wolsey was entrusted with the care of providing the supplies for the

army ; and his zeal and activity in this new commission were as conspicuous, as his former services had been.

Henry landed in France, accompanied by Wolsey ; and on the capture of Tournay, the favourite was made bishop of that city. The campaign was successful, and even glorious : but a treaty being soon concluded at Lisle, the English returned ; and in the subsequent year Wolsey was promoted, first to the see of Lincoln, and then to the archbishopric of York.

The stream of royal favour had flowed with such a full tide on Wolsey, that the pope thought it politic to conciliate the favour of a man whose interest and income were now immense ; and to complete his exaltation, in 1515 his holiness invested him with the rank of a cardinal.

The pride and ostentation of Wolsey on the acquisition of this new dignity, deserved ridicule rather than respect. Even in those days, when the people were infinitely more captivated by show than at present, they could not refrain from making merry at the cardinal's expense ; but Wareham, archbishop of Canterbury and chancellor, felt the conflict for pre-eminence with this upstart so humiliating, that he resigned the seals, and left him without a rival in power and dignity.

Wolsey was immediately appointed his successor, and this new promotion increased his former parade. Yet it must be acknowledged, that in this new office he displayed a penetrating judgment, and a deep and enlarged acquaintance with law and equity.

Cardinal Campeggio, the pope's legate, having about this time rendered himself unacceptable to Henry the Eighth, Wolsey had this high rank bestowed on him by the holy see. Having now gained all that he could well aspire to, he became imperious and insolent in the highest degree ; yet Wareham alone had the honest courage to make his ill-conduct the subject of remonstrance to the king. Henry on that occasion reprimanded him for the first time ; and Wolsey became more cautious than before.

This towering prelate, however, had for some time entertained views even on the papal chair ; which, amidst all his splendid follies, seems to have been uppermost in his mind. He engaged foreign influence in his behalf, and even sacrificed the interest of his country to his own private schemes of aggrandisement. On the death of pope Leo the Tenth, he thought himself sure of being chosen his successor ; but Wolsey was of a character rather to be feared than loved, and he lost his election. Though disappointed and deceived, he did not relinquish his design ; and when another vacancy happened on the death of Adrian the Sixth, he again made his pretensions, and again failed.

He still, however, continued to direct the councils of his sovereign ; and to lord it over his equals, and even his superiors. He treated the most powerful of the nobility with arrogance and contempt ; and Stafford duke of Buckingham, the only courtier who ventured to oppose him, fell a victim to his intrigues. This gave occasion to an excellent saying of the emperor Charles the Fifth, “ that the butcher’s dog ” (alluding to Wolsey’s origin) “ had worried the fairest hart in England.”

Wolsey, who had long ceased to be popular, was now generally execrated : but he continued to enjoy the undiminished favour of his sovereign ; and those whom he could not conciliate by his bounty, he awed by his terrors. His establishment was princely ; and his munificence, or rather his ostentation, equalled it. Yet Wolsey must not be denied the praise to which his conduct, in some respect, has given him a just claim. His endowments at Oxford, and at Ipswich the place of his nativity, evince an ardent love of literature as well as of fame ; and prove that he did not accumulate wealth for himself alone, but with a view to the benefit of all posterity.

Having now seen this extraordinary character at the height of his glory, we must attend him in his rapid decline.

The king had long conceived an ardent affection for a young lady of the court, daughter to Sir Thomas Boleyn ; and finding that her virtue was impregnable, he was determined, by a separation from his present queen, to remove every obstacle which stood in his way, to an union with her on honourable terms. Wolsey, as long as he considered this in the light of a mere intrigue, bowed to the new favourite with the most supple address ; but when he found that his master intended to violate every tie to gratify his passion, he zealously dissuaded him from his object ; and thus incurred the resentment of his sovereign, who could not brook control, and of the lady, who aspired to be a queen. The courtiers saw the danger and the delicacy of his situation, and made Anne Boleyn the instrument of their vengeance and her own.

Against such a combination, co-operating with the impetuous desires of Henry, it was impossible for Wolsey to stand. Yet the king did not easily withdraw his confidence from a man who had long been his most obsequious drudge, at the same time that he was the tyrant of his subjects ; and he continued to be employed in embassies to foreign courts, and to enjoy the apparent affection of his master. But these commissions abroad were rather given him to remove him from the royal presence, than with any view of employing his talents in the service of his country ; and indeed from the time of his aspiring to the papacy, it is doubtful whether a regard to private interest did not predominate in his mind over a sense of public duty.

At length the business of the king's divorce from queen Catharine was brought forward : and the delays and impediments which occurred in its progress were in a great measure ascribed to Wolsey ; who had always dissuaded the king from such a step, and therefore was the more suspected of protracting the proceedings of the legantine court which had been established to decide on

the validity of Henry's marriage.* Anne Boleyn seconded the suspicions of the king, and the rage of the cardinal's enemies; and the seals were taken from him, though in a manner that showed some compunction on the part of Henry. But Wolsey, sensible that his disgrace was now inevitable, resolved to act with policy and caution in this critical situation. He ordered an inventory to be taken of his effects, his superb plate, and furniture, and left them all for the king; reasonably concluding, that to divest himself of his wealth was the most likely method to check the spirit of persecution.

He judged right: but the return of his influence was too much dreaded to render any sacrifices, short of his life, sufficient to satisfy his foes. He was impeached in parliament, chiefly relative to the exercise of his legantine functions, and the scandalous irregularities of his life; but by the industry and address of his grateful servant Thomas Cromwell, who now appeared on the horizon of power, this charge came to nothing.

Meanwhile the Cardinal continued at Esher, in Surry, in great obscurity and neglect, though he practised the most abject servility to regain the royal favour. The king indeed, by occasional favourable messages, seemed desirous of smoothing the way to his final ruin: but Wolsey constantly found himself deceived; and every step the king took, still farther removed him from any hopes of seeing better days.

Worn out with disappointment; his colleges being sequestered and dissolved, though he earnestly besought

* Queen Catharine had been wife to Arthur, eldest son of Henry the Seventh, who died while Prince of Wales; and on that event, in compliance with the wish of his father, Henry, who succeeded to the dignity of Prince of Wales, married her. It was on the pretence of scruples having arisen in his conscience, respecting the propriety of marrying his brother's widow, that he now founded his application for a divorce; and the pope appointed Wolsey, and another cardinal whom he sent to England on purpose, to be a court for determining on this question.

the king to spare them ; even his very tomb being seized, which he begged in the most feeling terms, as a home he was soon likely to want : Wolsey at length was obliged to retire to his diocese at York ; where his munificence soon rendered him respected, and where he might have closed his days in peace and honour. But even here the implacable resentment of his enemies pursued him ; and he was soon arrested by the earl of Northumberland for high-treason, and committed to the custody of the lieutenant of the Tower, who had orders to bring him to London.

The people whom his bounty had relieved flocked round him with lamentations, and followed him for several miles ; till he requested them to depart and be patient, as he feared not his enemies, but entirely submitted to the will of heaven. But the shock now given to a mind already broken by calamity, was too violent to be borne. When he had reached Sheffield-park, the seat of the earl of Shrewsbury, he was taken ill ; and suspicions were even entertained that he had swallowed poison, administered either by himself or others. — There seems, however, to be no good reason for the former supposition, nor any proofs of the latter. His illness proved mortal. By a slow progress and short journeys, he reached Leicester-abbey, where he was received with all possible reverence and respect ; but his only observation was, “ Father abbot, I am come to lay my bones among you.” Three days after, he died, with the composure of a Christian and the fortitude of a man, but reflecting on himself for his blind devotion to his prince. “ Had I served God,” said he, a short time before his death, “ as diligently as I have served the king, he would not have forsaken me in my gray hairs ; but this is the just reward I must receive for my pains and study, in not regarding my service to God, but only to my prince.”

He died on the twenty-ninth of November, 1530, and next day was buried in the middle of one of the abbey chapels. Such was the end of Cardinal Wolsey, who had

a very considerable weight in the scale of European politics, during a series of years ; and who certainly possessed eminent abilities as a statesman ; but, on the whole, he may be characterised rather as a great than a good man.

In person, Wolsey was tall and comely, and very graceful in his air and manner. Owing to a blemish in one of his eyes, he always took care to be painted in profile ; as may be seen in his remaining pictures.

He who is arrogant in prosperity, is commonly abject and mean in adversity ; and this maxim is illustrated by the conduct of Wolsey. His vices and weaknesses were indeed not few, but they were balanced by some splendid public virtues. He was the patron of genius and of learning, and a liberal friend to the poor.

SIR THOMAS MORE.

Born 1480. — Beheaded 1535.

From 19th Edward IV. to 26th Henry VIII.

As long as incorruptible integrity, genuine principle, and steady resolution, accompanied by the mildest social virtues, have a title to esteem, the name of Sir Thomas More will be held in veneration.

This great man was born in Milk-street, London. He was the son of Sir John More, one of the judges of the court of King's-bench ; a man whose virtues and abilities seem, in the present instance, to have been entailed with large accessions on his offspring.

Of the early presages which this young man gave of intellectual energy, there are some indisputable memorials, intermixed with fabulous legends. Being taken into the service of Cardinal Morton, the primate and chancellor, as

was usual for youths of talents or distinction in those days, his grace had discernment to see the bud of talents in him ; and would often say to his company, " This boy who now waits at my table, whoever lives to see it, will prove a wonderful man."

Being duly initiated in classical learning, he was removed to Canterbury-college, now part of Christ-church, Oxford ; where he remained two years, and distinguished himself by his knowledge in languages, and his progress in the sciences.

On quitting the university, he entered of New-Inn, London, where he applied to the study of the law : and, being called to the bar, was beginning to acquire a reputation proportionate to his talents ; when, conceiving a sudden dislike to his profession, he retired to the Charter-house, and for four years secluded himself from the world, engaged in the constant practice of devotion, or the prosecution of his studies.

The greatest minds are not exempt from infirmity : they have their brilliances and their obscurations. Superstition gained the ascendant on this illustrious character very early in life : he practised some monastic severities on himself before he was twenty years of age, and at one time had a violent inclination to become a Franciscan ; but his filial piety made him at last yield to the predilection of his father in favour of the law.

Being naturally of a gay and volatile temper, it is probable that the austerities he voluntarily submitted to were intended to counteract the warmth of his passions. His friends, zealous to promote his happiness and his credit, persuaded him to marry. Accordingly, while on a visit to a gentleman who had three daughters, he was captivated with the charms of the second : but when pressed to declare his choice, he named the eldest, because he thought it would hurt her feelings to be overlooked. With this lady he lived happily for about seven years, and resumed his practice at the bar with great reputation and success ; which latter circumstance in some measure originated from the following incident : c 6

Scarcely had he completed his twenty-first year, when he was returned to serve in parliament. In this great theatre he soon had an opportunity of displaying his abilities and his patriotism, by opposing a subsidy demanded by the king (Henry the Seventh) with such force of argument and effect, that it was actually rejected. One of the privy-council, who was present, immediately reported to the king, "that a beardless boy had frustrated all his schemes." Henry was determined to be revenged: but as the son had nothing to lose, and had not exceeded the line of his duty, he visited his offence on the guiltless father; who, on some frivolous charge, was committed to the Tower, and fined a hundred pounds before he could recover his liberty. This mean instance of vindictive malice, which was intended to depress young More, only made him an object of importance in the eyes of the nation; and his own conduct was such, that his enemies neither found means to ensnare him, nor had his friends reason to be ashamed of their cordial support.

After his return to the bar, there was scarcely a cause of importance in which he was not solicited to be engaged; and as he never would defend a bad one, his credit rose the more, by the purity of the principle on which it was founded. His first preferment, however, was that of being made judge of the sheriff's court in London; but having acquitted himself with distinguished reputation and abilities on various public occasions, Wolsey was commissioned by Henry the Eighth, to engage his services. More, with that diffidence which is peculiar to merit, and that love of independence which is natural to the virtuous, declined the proffered honour; but being importunately urged, he thought it his duty to submit to his sovereign's pleasure, and was appointed master of the requests. A few weeks after, he was knighted, sworn one of the privy-council, and admitted to the greatest personal familiarity with the king; who was so much charmed with his abilities, learning, wit, and convivial talents, that he not only consulted him on affairs

of state and questions of science, but frequently invited him to be of his private parties, in order to enjoy his rich flow of humour.

Sir Thomas, however, was passionately attached to domestic endearments; and when he found that his facetious disposition was one reason of his being called on to devote so much time to court-attendance, he began to assume a graver deportment, and to dissemble his natural propensity for merriment. By this innocent artifice he recovered a greater share of liberty, and was less frequently drawn from the home he loved. The king, however, did not abate in his regard for his faithful servant. On the death of the treasurer of the exchequer in 1520, Sir Thomas More was appointed, without solicitation, to that office; and three years afterwards, he was chosen speaker of the house of commons. In this last capacity he evinced his usual intrepidity and patriotism, in frustrating a motion for an oppressive subsidy, promoted by cardinal Wolsey.

Soon after he was appointed treasurer of the exchequer, he settled at Chelsea; and having lost his first wife, married a second, named Middleton; who, according to Erasmus, was a widow, old, ill-tempered, and avaricious; yet was beloved with youthful fondness by her husband.

His next promotion was to the chancellorship of the duchy of Lancaster. Notwithstanding the known independence of his mind, he was in such high favour at court, that the king frequently visited him at Chelsea in the most unceremonious manner. After walking with him one day in the garden for nearly an hour, with his arm familiarly thrown round Sir Thomas's neck, one of his sons-in-law, who saw the intimacy with which he was treated, was remarking on the felicity of being so distinguished by his sovereign. Sir Thomas, who was no stranger to the natural baseness of Henry's heart, thus expressed himself: "I thank the Lord, I find his grace to be a very good master indeed, and believe he is as partial to me as to any subject within his realm: but yet

I have no cause to presume on his favour ; for if my head could win him but a castle in France, it would not long remain on my shoulders."

Having discharged two embassies on the continent, much to the satisfaction of the king, who always treated him with more tenderness and good-humour than any of his other favourites, on the disgrace of Wolsey, in 1529, he was entrusted with the great seal, as a reward for his eminent services.

It is generally believed that the king had previously sounded Sir Thomas on the subject of his meditated divorce from queen Catharine ; but that finding him averse to lend the sanction of his respectable name to such a proceeding, he thought to ensure his compliance by loading him with honours. In regard to mankind in general, Henry's judgment in this case was politically right ; but Sir Thomas More was not so flexible as to bend for interest, or to sacrifice his conscience for gratitude.

He saw the danger and delicacy of his situation from the first ; but having entered on this high office, he would not shrink from the duties annexed to it. The meanest claimant found ready access to the new chancellor : no private affection could bias his judgment, or influence his decrees ; no opportunity was given for intrigue or interested solicitation : and after he had presided in the court of chancery for two years, such was his application to business, that one day calling for the next cause, he was told there was not another then depending — a circumstance which he immediately ordered to be set down on record, and it will certainly be allowed to be extraordinary.

Sir Thomas, though no friend to the papal usurpations in England, was far from wishing for a total rupture with the holy see : and foreseeing that the measures which Henry was pursuing must inevitably involve him with one or the other, he anxiously pressed to have his resignation of the seals accepted ; which at last was granted, though not without great reluctance on the part of Henry, and the warmest professions of a permanent regard.

Thus, after he had filled this high office almost three years, with exemplary application, true magnanimity, and unsullied integrity, he resigned his dignity, and retired to Chelsea: so little richer from the important stations he had held for nearly twenty years, that his whole annual income did not exceed a hundred pounds: and after the payment of his debts, it appears that he had not altogether above that sum in money, exclusive of his gold chain of office and a few rings. Such disinterestedness in a courtier is but seldom imitated, and deserves to be remembered.

The day after his resignation, he attended his wife and family to the church; and when service was finished, instead of going out first as had been usual, he went to the door of his lady's pew, (as it was usual for his servant to do before,) and with a low bow said, "Madam, my lord is gone." This was the first intimation he gave her that he was no longer chancellor. She at first thought him in jest; but when she found it otherwise, she broke out into reproaches and lamentations at his want of attention to his interest. Sir Thomas, however, turned the conversation to another subject, and seemed not to heed the storm.

His whole study now was, to lessen his establishment in proportion to his diminished resources, and to provide for his family and dependants in such a manner as might shew that he was more solicitous about them than himself. He gave himself up wholly to domestic privacy and retirement; and having every thing to fear from the inconstant and cruel temper of the king, to whom he had been a devoted servant, but could not be a slave, he prepared his mind by study and reflection to meet with fortitude the worst that could befall him.

Though now reduced to a private station, and even to indigence, so high was his reputation, and such credit was attached to his legal opinions, that repeated attempts were made to obtain his approbation of the intended marriage with Anne Boleyn. When every

contrivance, however, that policy could devise, or power command, proved ineffectual to warp his principles, and bring him over to measures which he condemned, the king, being highly exasperated, was determined to make him feel his utmost vengeance; and accordingly he was attainted, with several others, of misprision of treason, for encouraging Elizabeth Barton, commonly called the Maid of Kent, in her traitorous designs: yet at last, it appeared upon record, that he had pronounced her the most false dissembling hypocrite he had ever known; and his name was obliged to be struck out of the bill. But malice intrenched behind power is not easily baffled: other imputations equally groundless, were brought against him in quick succession; from all of which his innocence protected him, and enabled him to stand the severest scrutiny.

At last, however, his enemies prevailed: for on his refusing to take the oath enjoined by the act of supremacy, he was committed to the Tower; where having lain fifteen months, he was brought to trial on a charge of high-treason, in denying that the king was the supreme head of the church. The same equanimity and cheerfulness which he had evinced through life, attended him in this awful scene. The only evidence against him was Rich, the solicitor-general, whose credit he invalidated in the most striking manner; but as it was predetermined that he should either recant or be sacrificed, he resolutely maintained his principles, and the fatal sentence was passed upon him to suffer as a traitor.

In the interval between his condemnation and execution, (which latter the king softened to simple beheading,) he employed his time in taking leave of his daughters, and preparing himself for eternity. His humour and wit, however, were displayed to the last: even on the scaffold his serenity of mind shone in its fullest lustre; and he seemed more like a man undressing to go to bed, than like one on the brink of the grave. At one blow his head was severed from his body. The latter was de-

posited in the chancel of the church of Chelsea, where a monument was erected to his memory: his head, after being fourteen days exposed on London-bridge, was obtained by his daughter; and placed in a vault belonging to the Roper family, in St. Dunstan's church at Canterbury.

It has been observed of this illustrious character, that the ignorant and the proud, however exalted, were those whom he respected the least; but he was the patron of every man of science and merit, and kept up a correspondence with all the learned in Europe. As a judge, he was most upright; as a man, truly amiable, facetious, and pleasing; but on the subject of religion he was weak and credulous in a high degree. Tinctured with superstition, and attached to the Romish church with inflexible adherence, he suffered his good sense to be obscured by the glosses of error and the sophisms of theologians, and fell a martyr perhaps to bigotry rather than to sound reason. Yet none can help respecting the errors which arise from principle:

For modes of faith let graceless zealots fight;
His can't be wrong whose life is in the right.

Except by his Utopia, sir Thomas More is now little known as an author: his polemical works have been carried down the stream of oblivion; for the best productions of this nature are unworthy to earn the wreath of immortality.

THOMAS CROMWELL,

EARL OF ESSEX

Born 1498. — Beheaded 1540.

From 13th Henry VII. to 31st Henry VIII.

THE rise of this earl of Essex was as sudden as that of his patron, cardinal Wolsey; and, in several respects, more extraordinary. That learning and talents should elevate a man above his original station is consistent with the common order of human events; but that a man without either birth, education, or connections, should be able to pierce the cloud of obscurity, and to soar into the higher regions of life, is a phenomenon which deserves to be considered and accounted for.

This champion of the Reformation was the son of a blacksmith, at Putney in Surry, where he received all his slender instruction; which did not exceed the knowledge of reading and writing, with such a smattering of Latin, as qualified him to understand his Belief and the Lord's Prayer.

Born in such a humble sphere of life, it cannot be supposed that Cromwell could owe much to his parents, beyond a vigorous and healthful constitution. However, being possessed of a strong natural genius, and considering travelling as the only means in his power for improving his understanding and enlarging his capacity, as he advanced toward manhood, he determined to visit the continent; and, according to some, he was first retained as clerk or secretary in the English factory at Antwerp.

This situation being ill suited to his aspiring genius, he soon found an opportunity of changing it for one more congenial to his views. Two messengers from the guild of the Virgin Mary in the church of St. Botolph at Boston, being desirous to have their former liberal grants and indulgences confirmed by the reigning pope,

Julius the Second, happened to take Antwerp in their way; where they fell in company with Cromwell: and, seeing his talents for negotiation superior to their own, readily prevailed on him to accompany them to Rome. On arriving at that ancient metropolis of the world, his first care was to discover the weak side of the pope's character: and, finding him a great epicure, he caused some curious jellies to be made after the English fashion, and presented to his holiness; who was so highly gratified with these delicacies, that he immediately granted the request of the commissioners.

After this transaction, an interval of doubt and uncertainty occurs in his life. The chain of events is much interrupted: and it is only known that he served under the famous duke of Bourbon, and was at the sacking of Rome; and that he assisted John Russell, afterwards earl of Bedford, in effecting his escape from Bologna, where he was in danger of being betrayed when on a secret mission a piece of service for which he was probably remembered and rewarded at a subsequent period.

On the defeat of the French army at Castiglione, Cromwell was reduced to the greatest distress: in which condition he arrived at the city of Florence. Here he accidentally attracted the notice of Frescobald, a merchant of eminence; who pitying his forlorn situation, put him on board a proper ship, and gave him sixteen golden ducats to defray his expenses to his own country. It is a pleasure to record an instance of a courtier's gratitude in return: this merchant being afterwards reduced to poverty, and visiting England to recover some debts, was recognized by Cromwell in his prosperity, and most munificently rewarded.

Thus it appears that the only benefit which our adventurer derived from foreign travels, was a more extensive knowledge of mankind: besides an acquaintance with the German, French, and Italian languages: which he spoke fluently, and wrote correctly. With such natural and acquired abilities, however, he soon recommended himself

to Wolsey, then in the zenith of his power ; and in a short time was admitted to a considerable share of intimacy with that cardinal, and frequently employed by him in delicate and important affairs. On the disgrace of his patron, Cromwell behaved with a fidelity and gratitude which must endear his memory to every virtuous mind. He strenuously defended him from the charge of treason ; he omitted no attentions of affection and respect to the prostrate greatness by which he himself had risen ; and the king, who saw his zeal and abilities, prudently took him into his own service, and promoted his interest and his fame.

The dispute between Henry and the pope having now reached its height, Cromwell was chosen to manage it on the part of his sovereign. In his religious sentiments he was publicly known to favour the Reformation ; and having already been instrumental in the demolition of some of the convents, the clergy dreaded his accession to power, and calumniated him grossly. Their inveterate dislike to him, however, proved fatal only to themselves. Cromwell, instead of attempting to sooth them by compliance, irritated and injured them still more, by disclosing an important secret respecting their blind devotion to Rome. He had discovered at the papal court, that after the English clergy had taken the oath of allegiance to their sovereign, the pope dispensed with that part of it which militated against his own usurped rights ; so that the royal authority was abused, and the clergy were subject to the charge of an offence little short of treason.

Henry heard this with indignation ; till the artful Cromwell, favouring his passion for power and for money, pointed out the means of effectually humbling the clergy, and of confiscating their property. In a transport of joy he now embraced the new favourite ; and, taking the royal signet from his finger, sent him to the convocation then sitting, to declare the pains and penalties which they had incurred. The bishops were at first astonished

at the accusation, and attempted to deny the fact; but Cromwell producing a copy of the oath which they had taken to the pope at their consecration, they were awed into silence, and offered eagerly to compound with his majesty, by a free gift of 118,840 pounds.

The fortune of Cromwell was insured by this exploit, and he rapidly rose to the summit of power. He was successively made a privy-counsellor, and master of the jewel-office; clerk of the hanaper, and chancellor of the exchequer; principal secretary of state, and master of the rolls; keeper of the privy-seal, and lord Cromwell; and, to crown the whole, he was constituted vicar-general, and vicegerent over all the spirituality under the king, who had now assumed the title of "supreme head of the church."

So many honours accumulated by a person of plebeian origin, could not escape envy. In his quality of vicar-general also, he was exposed to obloquy. The total suppression of the monasteries was a bold and novel step; and as the rupture with the court of Rome was now complete, while the greater part of the nation still professed popery, the danger of the man who had placed himself in the foremost ranks of reformation, and been accessary to that important revolution, is obvious.

Yet Cromwell was not intimidated by the difficulties which surrounded him. His good sense extricated him from some impending dangers, and his sagacity removed others that were evidently approaching. With such a capricious and fickle master, however, it was impossible to be safe. Reason may maintain its ground when opposed to reason; but where passion and caprice alone bear sway, there is no tenable possession of the mind. The spoils of the monasteries gratified Henry's rapacity; and the inferior perquisites which he was continually distributing among his flatterers, fixed their adherence to a minister, who had so much gratified their cupidity; but the number whom this conduct alienated was not small; and both the religion and morals of the king

were so completely under the domination of his lust, that the tenets of one day were deemed heretical on the next.

Thus circumstanced, Cromwell felt the necessity of caution in the exercise of his religious powers. He began by publishing a few articles of faith, essentially different from the Romish; but, not to shock the vulgar prejudices too strongly at once, he left some points doubtful, and others he did not touch.

His next care, — and in this his wisdom and piety were equally conspicuous, was to publish a translation of the Scriptures; a copy of which was directed to be placed in every church, for the inspection of all ranks of people.

The Lord's Prayer, the Belief, and the Ten Commandments, were likewise ordered to be taught in the English tongue. These judicious measures, menaced the speedy extirpation of the Romish religion; and its blind adherents were consequently incensed to madness. Insurrections broke out in different parts of the kingdom, the rebels boldly demanding that Cromwell should be brought to punishment as a subverter of the laws and religion of the land; but the disturbances were speedily quelled, and Henry only answered the complaints of the insurgents, by bestowing fresh honours on his minister, who was now created Earl of Essex.

The tide of prosperity had hitherto flowed without interruption; but the earl, while studious to take precautions for preventing a reverse of fortune, adopted a measure which precipitated his fall.

Henry having lost his queen, Jane Seymour, (mother of Edward the Sixth,) for whom he seems to have entertained a sincere affection, turned his thoughts towards a German alliance. Essex warmly seconded his master's views, and brought about a marriage between him and Anne of Cleves, who was a Protestant; in hopes thereby to strengthen his interest against the popish faction, which continually menaced him. So uncertain, however, is the issue of human events, that this very circumstance

proved his ruin. Anne was personally disagreeable to Henry, who had a whimsical and vitiated taste : he ceased to live with her, and fixed his roving affections on Catharine Howard, niece to the Duke of Norfolk. The papists, seeing this, redoubled their clamour against Essex, and some of the bishops promised to procure a divorce from the princess of Cleves, on condition of his being previously removed. Henry, whom no tie of honour or gratitude could bind, when his passions were concerned, gave up his favourite ; who was arrested by the Duke of Norfolk at the council-board, and immediately conveyed to the Tower. Seven days after, he was accused in the house of lords of heresy and treason, but the charges were either so frivolous or so false, that he was denied an opportunity of making his defence, and the bill of attainder passed both houses almost by acclamation.

Essex, during his confinement, cleared himself of every accusation, in some very pathetic letters which he addressed to the king ; but the die was cast, and compunction seldom touched the heart of that tyrant. The friends of the fallen minister, as is too common, immediately deserted him, and his enemies triumphed over him with inhuman insolence. Cranmer, the primate, alone maintained his cause, though with ineffectual zeal ; and in the fidelity of this great and good man, he met with a recompense for his own attachment to Wolsey.

Essex was brought to the block on the 28th of July, 1540, in the forty-second year of his age. That he might not injure his son, he avoided all reproaches against his enemies. He prayed fervently for the king, and the welfare of his country ; and then gave the signal to the executioner ; who, either unskilful or timid, mangled the unfortunate victim in the most shocking manner.

Essex was a sound politician, a good man, and warmly attached to the public welfare ; but he committed many errors in his ministerial capacity. In his zeal for the new religion he had introduced the unjustifiable mode of attainder, in cases of treason and heresy ; and his enemies

availed themselves of his own law, to condemn him, unconvicted and unheard.

In his person, he was comely : in manners, courteous. He was exempt from all pride or arrogance ; and in his highest exaltation was easy of access, and remarkably affable. His charity was unbounded, and his kindness to his dependants made their services appear like offices of love and gratitude, not the compulsion of superiority and duty.

HUGH LATIMER,

BISHOP OF WORCESTER.

Born 1475. — Burnt at the stake, 1555.

From 14th Edward IV. to 2d Mary I.

THAT a religion whose distinguishing character is charity and benevolence, should ever have been employed as an engine of persecution, is mortifying to those who enter into its divine spirit ; and to the sceptic and the infidel, furnishes a weak but plausible argument against its authenticity. In these days, indeed, when bigotry and superstition are justly exploded among us, it must astonish every sincere Christian to reflect, how it could have entered into the conception of man, that God can be honoured by a flagrant violation of his express command “ to love one another,” and that the kingdom of Heaven is to be gained, by the perpetration of crimes at which human nature turns pale. Yet it may be instructive to the rising generation to know, that in former times fires have blazed for the immolation of human sacrifices, under the name of a religion that abjures and abhors them.

Latimer, Ridley, Hooper, and Cranmer, all men of eminence in learning and station, suffered at the stake in

the sanguinary reign of the bigoted Mary, and sealed the truth of the genuine religion with their blood. I have selected the life of the first of these, as appearing to approach nearest to the standard of primitive simplicity and virtue ; and furnishing the brightest example of suffering patience, and of unshaken fortitude in trial.

This apostolical divine was born at Thurcaster, in Leicestershire, of reputable parents, who by honest industry, remote from affluence, brought up six daughters, besides this their only son.

Of the juvenile part of his life there are no particular memorials. He was entered of Cambridge, where he took priest's orders, and for some time shewed the utmost eagerness in defending the tenets of the Romish church, which then began to be attacked, and in opposing the progress of what were then deemed heretical opinions. This activity and zeal procured him the office of cross-bearer at all solemnities, an office which he sustained with becoming dignity of deportment.

But fortunately he did not stray long in the mazes of error. He had a friend named Bilney, who, being attached to the doctrines of the Reformation, and entertaining a high opinion of Latimer's morals and abilities, exerted himself to win him over as an associate in the same cause. Latimer, who acted from the purest principles, and was open to the conviction of truth, when his inquisitive mind had once become satisfied of the existence of error, soon professed himself a convert to Protestantism ; and having once entered into its rational views, he supported his belief by public preaching, by private exhortation, and by invincible courage, joined to the most blameless manners.

It was not long, however, before he was sensible of the danger to which he had exposed himself, and persecution began to approach with rapid strides. The orthodox clergy, more exasperated against him than if he had never been their friend, thought it high time to oppose him openly. His opinions were declared heretical

in their pulpit narangues ; and some of their arguments against the innovation which he defended, — that of using the Scriptures in English, however canonical at that time, would only raise the smile of contempt in this enlightened age.

Notwithstanding this opposition, the Protestant party, of which his friend Bilney and himself were the leaders, gained ground at Cambridge, and struck a panic into the dignitaries of that university. The latter, finding arguments ineffectual, had recourse to authority. The diocesan was applied to ; and at last a court was erected, consisting of bishops and canonists, who were commissioned to put in force the laws against heresy. Bilney, who was considered as the principal offender, was obliged to recant and carry his own faggot ; a mode of punishment which thus consisted only of a public exhibition of shame, (as it was then thought,) but happily extended no farther : Latimer and others were dismissed with some courteous admonitions. Cardinal Wolsey himself, after some private conversation, gave him a general licence to preach in all parts of England ; and he returned to Cambridge, animated with fresh zeal to promote the doctrines of the Reformation.

Bilney being silenced, Latimer now became the head of the party, and having once or twice had the honour to preach before the king at Windsor, his majesty took particular notice of him, which emboldened him to address his sovereign in a nervous and pathetic epistle against the cruel bigotry of the clergy, who had been sanctioned by a royal proclamation. The concluding words of his address, deserve to be copied ; they are not the cold unimpassioned language of the head ; they flow spontaneously from the heart.

“ Accept, gracious sovereign, without displeasure, what my duty prompted me to write. No personal quarrel have I with any man, as God shall judge me. I have no object but to induce your majesty to consider well what kind of persons you have about you, and the

ends for which they counsel. If they are not much slandered, their private interest is the rule of their conduct. God grant your Majesty may see through all the designs of evil men, and be equal in all things to the high office with which you are entrusted. But, gracious king, reflect on yourself; reflect on your soul. Think of that day when you must give an account of your office, and of the blood that has been shed by your sword. On which day, that your grace may stand stedfast and unabashed, clear and ready in your reckoning, and have your pardon sealed with the blood of our Saviour Christ, is my daily prayer to him who suffered for our sins. The Spirit of God preserve you!"

Such was the impressive language in which Latimer pleaded with his sovereign. With the effect of his solicitations we are unacquainted: but it is certain that Henry entertained no unfavourable opinion of him for his freedom; and soon after, he had an opportunity of recommending himself more effectually to the good graces of the king, by strenuously defending his divorce, and maintaining his supremacy, in the university of Cambridge, where he still continued to exercise his talents.

About this time, Cromwell was appearing on the horizon of court favour, and a similarity of principles attached him to Latimer. The latter was now introduced at court, and had a living in Wiltshire bestowed on him; to which he instantly retired to discharge its functions, regardless of the prospects that opened to him as a courtier.

Not satisfied with a faithful attention to the immediate duties of his parish, he extended his labours through the country, wherever he found the pastoral care neglected; and his preaching being in a familiar but extremely impressive strain, he soon acquired great reputation among the people.

His fame daily spreading, and his piety and benevolence being such as malice could not scandalize nor envy distort, the orthodox clergy in those parts were seriously

alarmed, and resolved to silence him. When he intended, one Sunday to preach at Bristol, a mandate was issued by the bishop, prohibiting any one to mount a pulpit there without his special license; and though this was aimed against Latimer secretly, he immediately saw through the motive which dictated the injunction, but prudently disguised his feelings.

Opposition soon became more public and more virulent; and calumniators were suborned to accuse him of heretical opinions, chiefly by passages taken from his sermons. The charge was laid before the bishop of London, who cited him to a personal appearance before him. Latimer, sensible that this was an extrajudicial and assumed authority, appealed to his own ordinary; but the primate being prevailed on to issue a citation from Lambeth, he did not hesitate to comply, though it was then the depth of winter, and he was labouring under a severe fit of the stone and colic.

When he arrived in London, he found a court of bishops and canonists assembled to receive him; but instead of being examined as to his doctrines, a paper was put into his hands, which he was ordered to subscribe. Finding that its purport was to profess his belief in some of the most absurd dogmas of the Romish church, he refused to sanction it with his name; and was then dismissed, with a hope that at the next appearance he would be found in a more compliant temper. This farce was acted again and again; but as he still continued inflexible, and even remonstrated against this vexatious usage, the court began to think of proceeding to greater severities.

The king, however, being informed of his perilous situation, probably by the intervention of Cromwell, stepped in and rescued him from his bigoted enemies. On his liberation, he attended at court; and made such an impression on Anne Boleyn by his simplicity and apostolic manners and appearance, that she warmly joined with Cromwell in recommending him to the first vacant see.

The king, in this instance, did not want much solicitation ; and in 1535 Latimer was offered the bishopric of Worcester, which he accepted.

Having assumed the pastoral office, he was remarkably assiduous in the discharge of every part of his duty : he preached, he visited, he reproved, he exhorted ; and without rejecting all the superstitions of Rome, he explained them in such a way as was calculated to facilitate the reception of the protestant doctrines.

While thus usefully and honourably employed in the proper sphere of his activity, he received a summons to attend the parliament and convocation. His eloquence being then in great repute, he was called on to open the latter by a Latin oration ; but he prudently avoided launching into the ocean of contest between the protestant and the popish parties, and in consequence escaped an intended public censure which was directed at the primate Cranmer and himself.

Anxious to discharge the functions of a bishop alone, he did not meddle with state affairs ; for which he had no inclination, nor perhaps abilities. It is certain that he had too little policy to be a statesman, and too much bluntness for a courtier. He could not flatter vice, nor stoop to baseness ; and therefore spent no more time in London than what was absolutely requisite.

After a residence of two years in his diocese, he was again summoned to London, on parliamentary business ; and soon after, preaching a sermon before the king, in which he had (as usual) been severe against the prevalent vices of the court, he was accused of sedition. With the undaunted consciousness of innocence, he repelled this idle charge ; and in the presence of his sovereign and his ministers professed his want of either desire or ability to preach before the court ; but added that, if called upon, he claimed the privilege of discharging his conscience, and framing his doctrine according to his audience. The firmness of his virtue defeated the malice

of his accusers, and the king dismissed him with tokens of regard.

About this time Gardiner, bishop of Winchester, obtaining great influence with Henry, the six bloody articles (as they are called) were framed; the object of which was virtually to restore the Romish religion, though the king was as tenacious of his supremacy as ever. Thus, by the versatility of the king's faith, and the violence of his temper, both protestants and papists were alike exposed to destruction.

Latimer, being unable to reconcile those articles to his conscience, thought it wrong to hold communion with a church that required them, and immediately resigned his bishopric. It is related that when he had divested himself of his episcopal robes, he leaped up, declaring that "he thought himself lighter than ever he was before."

Retiring into the country, his sole wish was to enjoy a sequestered life: but receiving a violent contusion by the fall of a tree, he was obliged to repair to London for medical assistance. Here he had the mortification to find all in confusion, the popish party triumphant, and his patron Cromwell in the Tower: whither he himself was soon afterwards sent, for having spoke against the six articles; and during the remainder of this reign he continued in imprisonment.

On the accession of Edward the Sixth, a new scene opened; and the friends of the Reformation were not only liberated, but received with every mark of affection. Latimer was now pressed to resume his bishopric of Worcester, in which an ignorant bigot had been placed; but he excused himself on account of his age, and pleaded his claim to a disincumbrance from ecclesiastical care.

He now took up his residence at Lambeth with his friend archbishop Cranmer, and chiefly devoted himself to acts of charity. He had a principal share, however, in the composition of the homilies which were pub-

lished by authority ; and occasionally preached before the king.

On the revolution at court, after the duke of Somerset's death, he travelled over the country as a general preacher ; a practice which he continued till the accession of Mary, when he was immediately cited before the council. As he passed through Smithfield, where heretics were usually burnt, he said with a cheerful air, " This place has long groaned for me."

After some abuse from the council, he was committed to the the Tower a second time ; and Cranmer and Ridley were soon sent to join him. Their imprisonment for some months was severe : but at last they were sent to Oxford, under the care of the lieutenant of the Tower ; where they were informed that the long-depending controversy between the papists and the protestants would be finally determined, in a disputation between the most eminent divines of both parties. However, when they arrived there, they were all confined in the common prison ; and denied the use of pen, ink, and paper.

In this dismal state, their chief relief was in prayer and meditation ; and when the commissioners from the convocation came down, about a month after, articles were exhibited for them to subscribe or confute. Having declined the former, copies were delivered them, and separate days were fixed when they were publicly to argue against them.

The venerable Latimer, his head palsied with age, and his hand propped by a staff, with a Bible under his arm, briefly professed the articles of his belief, but jocularly observed, " that he was as fit to be made governor of Calais as to dispute, at his time of life, and under such circumstances." The arguments used by the more youthful champions, Cranmer and Ridley, were over-ruled by the insolence of authority, and treated with contempt.

The three bishops, after a close confinement of sixteen months, till the pope's authority could be completely restored, were brought, not to trial, but to condemnation.

Cranmer was cajoled into a recantation, and thus had a few bitter months added to his life; but he atoned at last for this instance of weakness. Latimer and Ridley were sentenced to the stake, and soon after carried to execution.

The scene of this dreadful tragedy was opposite Balliol college. The spectators burst into tears, when they saw men venerable for age, dignity, and worth, about to suffer such a horrid death. Latimer appeared in a shroud prepared for the purpose; and looked on the pile which was to consume him, with the confidence of immortal joy. Being fastened to a stake with an iron chain, a fagot ready kindled was laid at Ridley's feet; on which Latimer exclaimed, "Be of good comfort, master Ridley, and play the man: we shall this day light such a candle in England, as I hope, by God's grace, will never be put out." Then recommending his soul to the Almighty, the flames quickly closed on him, and he passed through this fiery ordeal to eternal bliss. Ridley was much longer in torture, but supported the fortitude of a Christian martyr to the last.

Of characters so severely tried, and so greatly victorious, it is impossible to speak in adequate terms. The honest heart feels, what no language can express. For piety, charity, humility, and exemplary manners, they were both alike distinguished. Their labours were all calculated to promote the cause of true religion and practical morality; to make men good and happy here, and prepare them for eternal happiness hereafter.

SEBASTIAN CABOT.

Born about 1477. — Died 1557.

From 16th Edward IV. to 4th Mary I.

THE close of the fifteenth century was pregnant with many great events, and produced some of the most extraordinary characters for enterprise that ever graced the annals of fame. Columbus discovered a new continent, and Di Gama laid open the precious treasures of the East. Henry the Seventh, to whom the former had offered his services through the medium of his brother, was either too incredulous or too penurious to embrace the mighty project; but when he at length became sensible of what his narrow policy had lost, ambition or curiosity roused him to participate in the honour and advantages of Columbus's discoveries, though he could no longer claim them by an original title.

The patronage of a king will always elicit enterprise; and no country is so barren in genius and talents as not to possess some aspiring minds, to which royal countenance and encouragement can impart an enthusiasm for daring and suffering.

Sebastian Cabot, was born at Bristol, about 1477. His father was a native of Venice; and made it his first care to educate his son in those branches of marine and mathematical science, to which commerce had then justly given celebrity and value. Before Sebastian was twenty years of age, he had performed several voyages; and by thus adding practice to theory, he became early eminent in the nautical profession.

The first voyage of importance, however, on which he was engaged, seems to have been that made by his father John: who had obtained a joint commission with his son, from Henry the Seventh, for the discovery of a

north-west passage to India; the favourite object of Columbus, whose glorious career the king was then desirous that his subjects should emulate or excel. The two Cabots sailed from Bristol in the spring of 1494; and pursuing their course with favourable gales, on the twenty-fourth of June saw Newfoundland; which they named *Prima Vista*, or *first seen*. Landing on a small island on this coast, they gave it the appellation of St. John's, from its discovery on the day dedicated to St. John the Baptist. This place proved to be barren; but the seas that encircled it abounded with fish. The natives were clothed in skins; and armed with bows, arrows, pikes, wooden clubs, darts, and slings. The navigators returned to England with three of these savages on board, made a report of their discoveries, and met with a gracious reception from their delighted prince.

The father dying soon after, a fresh patent was granted to his son Sebastian, to proceed again in quest of new discoveries: he accordingly set sail on the fourth of May, 1497, before Columbus had commenced his third voyage. He sailed as high as 67 degrees 30 minutes of north latitude; whence shaping his course southerly, he came down to 56 degrees, after which he explored the whole coast of North America as low as 38 degrees. This part of the continent, he expressly says, was afterwards named Florida. His provisions beginning to be exhausted, he found it expedient to sail back; and, first touching at Newfoundland, returned to England with a full cargo of the productions of the countries which he had visited.

It is probable that Sebastian made several subsequent voyages to complete his survey of the coast of Newfoundland. A chart of his discoveries, drawn by himself, with his effigy annexed, was hung up as a curiosity in the private gallery at Whitehall.

Some of our writers, with the laudable partiality of men feeling for the honour of their country, have ex-

pressed their indignation that the New or Western world should be called America, when in fact Cabot had discovered that continent before Americus Vesputius, (from whom it was named,) or even Columbus himself.

Newfoundland, in its most extensive sense, was certainly the first of our plantations; and the spirit of enterprize to which the discoveries of Cabot gave rise, naturally paved the way to the subsequent naval power, the commerce, and the glory, of the British nation. While Spain was enervated and rendered indolent by the riches poured into her lap from the discoveries of Columbus, it was the happier fate of England to secure such a soil and climate as gave a new stimulus to exertion, and rendered her enterprising sons still more hardy and more brave.

Of the history of a man who thus undoubtedly first discovered the continent of America, every trace must be interesting to a Briton. But for the space of twenty years of his life, no vestiges of his labours are on record. In the eighth year of Henry the Eighth he again appears; and was then, through the interest of sir Thomas Pert, vice-admiral of England, furnished with a good ship of the king's, to prosecute fresh discoveries. It seems, he had by this time altered his plan; and his intention was now to sail by the south to the East Indies. For this purpose he proceeded to Brazil: but failing in the grand design of his voyage, he shaped his course for St. Domingo and Porto Rico; and, after carrying on some traffic there, returned to England, without much increasing his reputation by this expedition.

Disappointed, and probably neglected in consequence of his failure, he left his native country, and entered into the service of Spain: in which he rose to the highest rank, and signalized himself in many hazardous attempts to promote the views of his employers. But fortune frowned upon him once more. In an intended voyage to the Moluccas through the Straits of Magellan, his

men became mutinous, and his project was thereby frustrated. However, he sailed up the rivers Plata and Paraguay, built several forts, and discovered, and reduced under the dominion of Spain, a rich and fertile tract of country. After spending five years in America, he returned in chagrin to Spain, where he met with a cold reception.

These circumstances, probably, conspired to make him anxious for revisiting his native land; and about the end of the reign of Henry the Eighth, we find him settled again at Bristol.

A spirit of maritime adventure beginning at this time to be diffused through England, in 1552 Cabot was active in a speculation to fit out ships for discovering the northern parts of the globe; and thereby to explore new scenes of action, and open fresh channels of commerce. This expedition took place under the patronage of government, and was the first voyage ever made to Russia; a voyage which laid the foundation of the intercourse that we have since maintained with that nation, to the mutual profit of both. Upon this first success a Russian Company was formed, of which Cabot was constituted governor for life.

After an active life, spent in pursuits honourable to himself and useful to his country and to mankind, he died in a very advanced age, retaining his cheerfulness of temper and urbanity of manners to the last. Though his nautical fame is inferior to that which is justly ascribed to Columbus, his claims as an original discoverer are yet far superior to those of Americus Vesputius; but fortune has given the latter a celebrity which is neither equitable nor just. Thus one man frequently earns the prize of merit which another carries away!

Cabot was the first who noticed the variation of the magnetic needle, so important in the science of navigation: but this must have occurred antecedently to the first voyage of Columbus; as all the historians of his adventurous enterprize agree, that this phenomenon,

which has never yet been satisfactorily explained, greatly perplexed and astonished that spirited navigator, amidst the unknown seas which he was traversing.

JOHN JEWELL,
BISHOP OF SALISBURY

Born 1522. — Died 1571.

From 13th Henry VIII. to 13th Elizabeth

IN purity of manners, integrity of life, and well-tempered zeal in defence of the protestant cause, Dr. John Jewell furnishes an amiable example, which deserves to be handed down to posterity, as both an incentive and a pattern. His works also on polemical theology, at a time when this species of writing had its utility and its praise, still rank him high among the champions of religious liberty, and the learned apologists for a separation from the church of Rome.

This eminent divine was descended from an ancient family in Devonshire, and was born at the village of Buden in that county. He received the first rudiments of classical learning under his maternal uncle, a respectable clergyman; and passing successively through the schools at Branton, South Molton, and Barnstaple, where his progress must have been considerable, though the little incidents of his puerile days are unrecorded, before he had attained the age of fourteen, he was entered of Merton College, in the university of Oxford.

His first tutor was a man of no literary eminence, and rather inimical to the doctrines of the Reformation. At the period when the intellectual powers begin to expand, principles generally sink deep; and had not this promising youth been soon after committed to the care of another gentleman, in every respect the reverse of his

former preceptor, it is possible that protestantism might have lost one of its ablest defenders and most exemplary ornaments.

Having, however, imbibed the tenets of the reformed religion, and distinguished himself by his aptitude for learning, and his assiduity in its acquisition, he removed to Corpus Christi College, where he was chosen scholar; and pursued his theological studies with such ardour, that he became almost wholly absorbed by them. It is recorded of him, that he read from four in the morning till ten at night, almost regardless of the calls of nature; by which indefatigable perseverance he acquired a most extensive fund of knowledge, but at the expense of his health; an object of so much importance to maintain and secure, that youth should never overlook its value, either in their thirst for innocent pleasure, or even the laudable ambition of literary acquirements. In consequence of neglecting a cold, he contracted a lameness which attended him to the grave; and in other respects he had undermined his constitution, before he reached the prime of life.

His abilities, however, were so conspicuous, and his virtues so great, that he commenced tutor with general applause, and initiated many in the doctrines of the Reformation. Being afterwards chosen professor of rhetoric in his college, he read lectures with distinguished reputation, and daily added to his celebrity and his influence. So estimable too was his moral character, that the dean, a rigid papist, used to exclaim, "I should love thee, Jewell, if thou wert not a Zuinglian. In thy faith I hold thee to be a heretic, but in thy life thou art an angel."

When Edward the Sixth mounted the throne, Mr. Jewell made a public profession of his principles; and contracted an intimate friendship with Peter Martyr, the divinity-professor of the university. On being made bachelor in divinity, he preached an excellent Latin sermon in defence of the protestant doctrine: and sedu-

lously attended to his pastoral duty at Sunningwell in Berks, of which place he was rector; whither he regularly walked every Sunday, a distance of five miles, notwithstanding his painful lameness.

The short reign of Edward, and the bigotry of his successor Mary, soon exposed Mr. Jewell to all the rage of persecution. The fellows of his own college lost no time in expelling him for heresy; but the university, either out of respect to his abilities, or (as others say) with a design to entrap him, appointed him to draw up and deliver its congratulatory address on the queen's accession. This piece, however, was composed with such felicity of matter and expression, that it not only passed without censure, but was favourably received by all parties.

Unwilling to quit the scene of his honourable labours, he withdrew to Broadgate-hall, now Pembroke-college, where he continued his lectures; but popery being re-established, and his life in danger, he was drawn into a compulsive signature of tenets which his heart and reason abjured. His enemies so well knew the inefficacy of his subscription, that they determined to deliver him up to Bonner, the grand inquisitor: but he evaded their vigilance; and, taking a by-road towards London by night, walked till he was quite exhausted, and obliged to lie down upon the ground. In this situation he was providentially found by a benevolent Swiss, who had formerly been in the service of bishop Latimer; this man conducted him to the house of a lady, where he met with a hospitable reception, and by whom he was afterwards privately conveyed to London.

The zeal and friendship of sir Nicholas Throgmorton furnished him with means of reaching the continent: where he immediately joined his former associate, Peter Martyr, who had preceded him; and with that learned divine settled first at Strasburgh, and afterwards at Zurich, where a profession of the reformed religion was neither criminal nor dangerous. The society which they

kept was distinguished for erudition, and zeal for protestantism; and their situation was not uncomfortable: but, on the joyful news of Elizabeth's accession, Dr. Jewell returned to his native land; where his fame and reputation had suffered no diminution by his voluntary exile, but rather gained an ample increase. In consequence of this, he was particularly favoured by the queen; and, soon after his return, appointed one of the sixteen protestant divines to hold a disputation in Westminster-abbey against the champions of popery.

The tide of preferment now flowed on apace; and in quick succession he rose to several dignities, which were soon after crowned by the mitre. In 1559 he was consecrated bishop of Salisbury; and never were ecclesiastical rank and emolument more judiciously bestowed. Dr. Jewell had shown his attachment to the Reformation in the most critical times; he had enforced its doctrines both by his eloquence and his writings, and had adorned them by his blameless life and exemplary conversation.

The papists, however, though often confuted, were not to be abashed. The more absurd any tenets are, the stronger hold they take on minds of a certain cast; the feeble intellect is confounded by what it cannot comprehend, and it regards the plausible delusions of designing men as the sacred mysteries of religion. On this account, the bishop of Salisbury found it necessary to be active and urgent in his exertion to trace and disconcert the schemes, and break through the snares, of an assiduous and domineering party. He impeached some of the leading dogmas of the Romish church, and challenged the whole world to defend them; but the papists, though they did not altogether decline the controversy, knew too well the disadvantageous ground on which they now stood, to enter the lists with him in public.

The bishop, encouraged by success, and emboldened by the present aspect of affairs, published his famous *Apology for the Church of England*. This work was translated into all the modern languages of Europe, and even into

Greek : it did more service to the cause of the Reformation, and more injury to popery, than almost any other work that can be named, or put in competition with it ; and still deserves to be read by every member of the church of England, and in short by every protestant who wishes to know the foundation of the principles which he professes to believe and to follow.

Dr. Jewell was not only celebrated as an able defender of the protestant faith, but carried a spirit of reform into every ecclesiastical department within the sphere of his jurisdiction. He corrected clerical abuses, purified the courts, and made them instruments of utility, instead of being engines to oppression.

While engaged in such truly honourable public pursuits, and in an unwearied application to private studies, he began to feel the strength of his body unequal to the vigour of his mind ; yet no advice from his friends, no affectionate warnings of the danger which he incurred, could prevail on him to relax into the least indulgence to himself. He persisted in his usual practice of rising at four o'clock ; at five he called his family to prayers ; at six he attended the public worship in the cathedral ; and the remainder of the morning he devoted to study. Some part of the afternoon was taken up in public audiences, and the transaction of business ; at nine in the evening he examined his servants, how they had spent the day, and afterwards joined with them, in family devotion. From this time till midnight he withdrew to his study, and even when at last he was disposed to indulge nature in repose, one of his chaplains generally read to him till he fell asleep.

A life so watchful, so laborious, without any relaxation except the change from one engagement to another, without any recreation except at moderate and hasty meals, could not fail to hasten the advances of mortality, and to abridge the number of his days. But if life be estimated by action, Dr. Jewell may be said to have reached longevity. Very few hours dedicated to sleep

are to be subtracted in computing the term of his efficient existence; and even when the notices of his approaching end could no longer be disregarded, it was his constant observation, that a bishop should die preaching.

His sense of the episcopal duty was undoubtedly very strong; and it may be said almost literally, that he died at his post. Having promised to preach at a church in his diocese, he set out when evidently labouring under a severe illness, regardless of the impending danger. He preached his last sermon, but with difficulty; and soon after resigned his immaculate soul into the hands of him who gave it, at Munkton Farley, and was buried in the choir of Salisbury cathedral.

The character of this primitive bishop will be best seen in his life and manners; but every particular respecting such a worthy man cannot fail to be interesting. In his person he was thin and spare, the effect probably of his intense application to study; in temper he was pleasant and affable, modest and meek; in his morals he was pious and charitable; and after he became a bishop, he seems to have made as near approaches to the standard of Christian perfection as the weakness of human nature will permit. He was gifted with a very tenacious memory, which he had improved to an extraordinary degree by art; so that he could exactly repeat whatever he wrote, after a single reading. This useful attainment he appears to have been capable of communicating to others. Of his skill in languages, and his immense erudition, he has left sufficient testimonies in his writings; which, as far as they were practical, received an instructive and persuasive comment from his life.

SIR THOMAS GRESHAM.

Born 1519. — Died 1579.*From 10th Henry VIII. to 21st Elizabeth.*

IN the age of queen Elizabeth, our commerce began to expand itself to the remotest parts of the world ; and the character of a merchant to become as truly respectable, as in the eye of reason and the scale of utility it certainly deserves to be. The national opulence of Britain, her consequence, and her glory, arise neither from peculiar fertility of soil, extent of territory, nor number of inhabitants, in all which respects she is excelled or rivalled by her neighbours : but from her shipping, manufactures, and trade ; from the spirit of enterprise that actuates her capitalists ; from the industry and ability of her artists ; and from the skill and resolution of her seamen : which last have carried the British flag, either to enrich or aggrandise their country, wherever winds blow, or ocean rolls.

But among all the mercantile characters, who in past or present times, have done honour to their native land, or immortalised their memory by laudable and benevolent actions, there are none that can be put in competition with GRESHAM : a man who will be remembered with gratitude while the city of London shall remain the emporium of nations ; and while extensive commercial knowledge, combined with a love of science, shall merit esteem and reputation.

Thomas Gresham was descended of an ancient family in Norfolk, several of whom had borne the honour of knighthood ; and among the rest his father Sir Richard, who was sheriff of London in 1531, and much employed by Henry the Eighth in his foreign contracts and negotiations. He had two sons the elder of whom, though

bred to his father's business, accompanied the protector Somerset in his expedition to Scotland, and was knighted by him in the field of battle at Musselborough, but died in the reign of queen Mary. The younger, — the subject of the present memoirs, was also bound very early to the trade of a mercer; but it appears probable that this was only to initiate him in a general knowledge of business; for neither his birth nor his fortune required that he should for any length of time submit to the drudgery of a counter.

It is to be lamented, however, that scarcely a single particular of this celebrated merchant's early life can be found on record: it is certain that he received a classical education; and, notwithstanding his apprenticeship, he passed some years at Caius-college, Cambridge, under its great founder Dr. Caius; who, in compliment to the learning and proficiency of his pupil, calls him *mercator doctissimus*, or "the very learned merchant."

But though the higher departments of trade are by no means incompatible with great advances in learning, Gresham's destination in life being early fixed by paternal solicitude, he soon engaged in active commerce; which put an end, in a great measure, to his literary pursuits, though not to his zeal in the cause of learning. He was made free of the mercers' company; and about the same time married the widow of a gentleman by the name of Reade.

On the death of his father, who had been the king's agent at Antwerp, another person was appointed to that office: but from his defect either of abilities or integrity, he involved his sovereign in considerable difficulties; and young Gresham, being consulted on the mode of extricating his majesty from the pressure of certain pecuniary engagements, gave such shrewd and satisfactory advice, that he was immediately authorised to carry his own ideas into execution, and remove to Antwerp with his family, in the character of royal agent.

Here he soon found himself involved in a business of great intricacy, arising from the want of prompt responsibility in his government; the fertility of his invention, however, enabled him to accomplish the object in view with honour to himself, and advantage to his master. Having discovered the selfish and intriguing disposition of the Flemings, he counteracted it in the most effectual manner for the service of his country; and raised the reputation of England to such an unusual pitch, that he could with facility borrow money on equitable terms, either on account of government, or by his own private credit. He turned the balance of trade wholly in favour of England; and so much raised the course of exchange, that money flowed apace into his native country, which had been exhausted before, and was even deeply in debt to the citizens of Antwerp.

However, on the accession of queen Mary he was removed from his appointment; but not before he had obtained sufficient grants from his late royal master to enable him to live with credit in the style of a private gentleman. In a patent, settling a pension on him and his heirs for ever, signed only three weeks before Edward's death, among other honourable expressions are these words, "You shall know that you have served a king."

During the reign of Mary, he was rather a petitioner for justice, than an object of favour; but when Elizabeth ascended the throne, and merit was confident of royal regard, he was among the first citizens of London who experienced her discriminating attention. She employed him to furnish the arsenals with arms; and soon after conferred on him the honour of knighthood, and made him her agent in foreign parts.

Among his fellow-citizens his credit at this period had arrived at a very high pitch; and in order the more firmly to establish his connections among them, he built a spacious house on the west side of Bishopsgate-street, afterwards called Gresham-college, where he lived in a style becoming his character, opulence, and station.

But that prosperity which had hitherto been his constant attendant with little variation, was now interrupted by the severest domestic calamity. He had an only son named Richard, about sixteen years of age; and his toils and his cares were probably all directed to secure the fortune and to promote the welfare of this object of his fondest affection: but he was deprived of him in the bloom of youth, before it was possible that his virtues could be developed, or his faults could diminish the anguish of a parent's sorrow.

The strong ties which bound him to his offspring being now for ever dissolved, with the dignity of a man who still wished to perpetuate his name by honourable service, he turned his thoughts to the welfare of his fellow-citizens, among whom he lived highly respected and beloved.

The merchants of London had hitherto met to transact business in the open air, in Lombard-street, subject to all the inclemencies of the weather; and he conceived that he could not more essentially serve them, than by erecting an Exchange for their use, on the plan of the Bourse at Antwerp. Animated with this liberal idea, he only requested the corporation to assign him an eligible spot of ground for the purpose, and promised them to erect the edifice at his own expense. Such an offer could not be considered with indifference. The citizens gave him the site of eighty houses in Cornhill, which were pulled down; and on the seventh of June 1567 Sir Thomas laid the first stone of the Bourse, (as it was then called,) which was raised with such extraordinary diligence that it was completed before Christmas.

When the building was fit for use, and the shops within its precincts opened, queen Elizabeth, attended by her courtiers, went in procession to inspect it: and being highly gratified with the munificence and taste of its founder, she ordered a herald, by sound of trumpet, to proclaim it the ROYAL EXCHANGE; an appellation which she desired it might ever afterwards retain.

This structure, however, though sufficiently splendid and capacious for that period, was by no means equal in grandeur to the present. The dreadful fire in London, in 1666, consumed it with numerous other public and private buildings: and out of its ashes rose the present pile, which was finished at the joint expense of the city and the mercers' company, at the cost of eighty thousand pounds.

It is impossible to do adequate justice in this limited sketch to the patriotic exertions of Sir Thomas Gresham, either in the service of his sovereign or of his fellow-citizens. Philip the Second, king of Spain, having in the rage of disappointment, prohibited all commerce in Flanders with the English, Cecil, then secretary of state, found it expedient to consult Sir Thomas on the probable consequences of this measure, and the best means of counteracting its effects. His advice appeared so judicious that it was immediately adopted; and thus the machinations of the enemy were made productive of their own injury and disappointment. At his instigation, government not only averted the danger of this restriction on the English trade, but adopted means of becoming less dependent on other nations. Till that period all loans had been negotiated on the continent; a proceeding by which this country was impoverished, and foreigners were enriched. A new scene, however, was now opened: it was determined to try the measure of raising money from the merchants of London: and though at first, from the novelty of the plan, and the general ignorance of the rich traders, it met with a very cool reception, yet by the interest of Gresham it was at last carried into full execution; and thus a revolution was effected in the financial operations of the government, at once tending to ensure its stability, and to promote the interest of the subject.

The prudent regulations thus adopted, rendered a foreign agent no longer necessary for money negotiations, and the post held by Sir Thomas Gresham was superseded by his own public-spirited designs: but the queen, who

was not insensible to his distinguished merit, immediately joined him in an honourable commission with the archbishop of Canterbury, the bishop of London, and some lords of the council, who were usually appointed assistants to the lord-mayor in the government of the city during her splendid progresses (as they were called) through her dominions.

A life so full of activity as sir Thomas Gresham's, was not likely to leave much space for indulgence in privacy. The mercantile world was not only the scene of his occupation, but of his pleasure; he loved the society of men whose views had been enlarged by commerce, and was never more happy than on his favourite Exchange. But as years came on, he found some relaxation necessary; and therefore purchased an estate at Osterly, where he built a magnificent seat for his occasional retreat from the cares of business and the bustle of the capital.

But his very hours of amusements were not spent in vain. A vigorous mind can derive some improvement from every object: a benevolent heart is never removed from the sphere of its exertions. He erected paper, oil, and corn mills in his park at Osterly; which at once filled up his leisure by the necessary superintendence of them, and furnished constant employment to various descriptions of artificers and labourers, who depended on him for their subsistence. At this seat queen Elizabeth visited "the royal merchant," as he used to be called: and was magnificently entertained. Once when her majesty pointed out an improvement in the court before the house, which she said would look better if divided, sir Thomas, anxious to show his respect for his sovereign's taste, privately sent to London for workmen, and when the queen rose next morning she was astonished to find her suggestion completely carried into execution.

It has been mentioned before that this opulent and worthy citizen had the misfortune to lose his only son.

Providence had thus prevented the means of perpetuating his name, except by his own noble actions. The Exchange alone would have rescued his memory from oblivion; but so rapidly had his fortune accumulated by his great judgment in mercantile transactions, that he began to project new schemes of beneficence to his fellow-citizens and to mankind.

The city of London having no establishment expressly devoted to the liberal sciences; and the merchants of his time, from want of education, being commonly obstinate and prejudiced, as sir Thomas had witnessed on many occasions in his intercourse with them; he reflected that he could not more effectually promote their welfare than by converting his mansion-house in Bishopsgate-street into a college, and endowing it with sufficient revenues for professors in the different sciences. In this he followed the plan of an academic institution; though it cannot be denied that lectures adapted to the local circumstances and interests of the great emporium of the world, would be more desirable and beneficial at the present day.

No sooner was this generous design divulged, than the ruling persons in the university of Cambridge used every argument to induce him to alter his plan, and every solicitation to obtain a preference in his beneficent intentions. Being the scene of his own education, it might be naturally expected that he would rather found a college there than in Oxford; and they expatiated on the danger of affecting the interests of the two established universities by raising a rival institution. His partiality for Cambridge was undoubtedly strong, but that in favour of London was still stronger. He persevered therefore in his first design; and on the 20th of May, 1575, executed a formal deed, by which, after the death of his lady (should she happen to survive him) his town-house was to be converted into a college, and sufficient revenues were assigned for the support of professors in divinity, law, physic, astronomy, geometry, music, and rhetoric.

Having given to his proposed institution all the stability of legal forms, and bequeathed by will considerable sums to several private and public charities, (particularly the hospitals,) like a man who had performed an honourable part in life, and was ambitious to benefit the world when called from it, he began to court retirement, and that tranquillity which is best suited to declining age. Few had more claims to the peaceful enjoyment of the last hours of existence. His fortune was so ample as to preclude every anxious care; and the long series of pious and benevolent actions which he had performed, must have afforded him an inexhaustible source of pleasing reflection. Beloved and respected, he enjoyed the smiles of well-merited friendship, and the homage of public respect; and had his days been protracted to a much later period, it is probable from his disposition and his conduct, that the last would have been still more honourable than the former.

In four years after he had adjusted his worldly affairs in a manner which will ever reflect lustre on his name, he was seized with a fit of apoplexy in his own house, immediately on his return from the Exchange; and suddenly falling, all attempts to restore him proved ineffectual. His funeral was conducted in a public and solemn manner, worthy the respect due to so distinguished a citizen. His charitable deeds too may be said to have followed him to the grave; his hearse being attended by a hundred poor men and as many poor women, for whom he left by his will appropriate mourning dresses.

From the best accounts that have been transmitted to us, it appears that this truly patriotic citizen was throughout of a temper generous and benign, and that his posthumous charity was only a continuation of the munificence that had adorned his life. He was well versed in ancient and modern languages; and showed a predilection for learning and its professors, whether natives or foreigners. Some acknowledged his patronage in very handsome terms, and among these John Fox the martyrologist.

Few have equalled his public spirit, or can claim a larger tribute of esteem and gratitude. He who lives only for himself, will soon be forgotten; but he whose labours are directed to the perpetual benefit of the community, may well lay claim to immortality as his reward

JAMES CRICHTON.

Commonly known by the appellation of
THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON.

Born about 1560. — Died 1582.

From 2nd to 24th Elizabeth.

THE almost miraculous qualities ascribed to the person, long known by the name of the admirable Crichton, are so vague and extravagant, that the prodigious and unparalleled talents which he actually possessed have in consequence been brought into dispute; and if the concurring testimony of contemporaries did not corroborate and establish his fame, his very existence might in time become questionable. A display of such endowments, according to their most moderate estimate, cannot fail to have a powerful effect on the generous mind of every youthful reader, when he thus sees what is attainable by man.

The time of the birth of this human prodigy has been variously related; but by the best authorities it is dated at the year 1560. His father soon after became lord-advocate of Scotland, and his mother was lineally descended from the royal family of that country; so that Crichton, in the subsequent scenes of his life, did not boast without reason of his high extraction.

He is said to have received his grammatical learning at Perth; but Aldus Manutius, who afterwards became intimately acquainted with him, asserts, that he studied

under Buchanan and other preceptors of James the First, along with that monarch.

That the best masters in every branch of learning fell to the lot of Crichton, may well be supposed from his proficiency; and it is absolutely impossible that he could have imbibed all his various knowledge from any one man of the age in which he lived, however strong the natural force of his genius may have been. But Rutherford, at that time a famous professor at St. Andrew's, had the honour of being his tutor at that university; and derives much greater renown from having formed such a scholar, than from his once famous writings on Aristotle, which are now obsolete and useless.

Before Crichton reached his twentieth year, he had run through the whole circle of the sciences, and was a master of ten languages; which, from his vast memory, were as familiar to him as his mother-tongue. Nor was his fame confined merely to literary excellence: he seemed to combine the most discordant qualities, and was without a rival in all corporeal exercises. It is recorded of him, that in fencing he could spring, at one bound, the length of twenty feet on his antagonist, and could use the sword in each hand with equal dexterity. He had also a fine voice, and great skill in playing on musical instruments. His person and countenance were alike eminently beautiful, which served to set off all his other accomplishments; for even virtue never fails to be still more acceptable in a graceful form.

Thus qualified, he set out on his travels; fully sensible of his stupendous acquirements, and fired with an ambition to display them. Having reached Paris, he affixed a kind of challenge on the gate of one of the colleges, inviting the learned of that university to a disputation on a certain day; giving his opponents, whoever they might be, the choice of ten languages, and of all the sciences.

After such a bold and novel step for a youth still in his minority, it might have been supposed that he would have devoted the interval to refresh his memory at least,

and prepare himself against every advantage that could reasonably be taken of his unguarded provocation. But the reverse appears to have been the fact. He gave himself wholly up to pleasure, or public manly exercises. He engaged in every diversion and in every dissipation with ardour; and became so contemptible in the eyes of the students of the university, that beneath his own notice they caused to be written, "that the most likely place in which to find this monster of perfection would be the tavern."

But Crichton soon redeemed his character, and covered his detractors with confusion. On the appointed day, he attended in presence of three thousand auditors; and after a disputation of nine hours against four doctors of the church and fifty masters, he silenced his antagonists, and was presented with a diamond and a purse of gold amidst the loudest acclamations. Every passion that had agitated the university, was now converted to admiration; and one of his opponents is said to have confessed that Crichton, who now obtained the epithet of "the admirable," gave proofs of knowledge almost supernatural; and that a hundred years spent in an incessant application to study, would not be sufficient for such attainments. It is further added, that so little was the youthful champion fatigued with the dispute, that the next day he attended a tilting-match at the Louvre, where in presence of the court of France he bore away the ring fifteen times successively.

The next account of Crichton places him at Rome, where he fixed a notice on all the most public places throughout the city, intimating that he would discuss or answer any proposition or matter whatever, extemporaneously. In a city so famous for scholastic learning, a challenge bearing such apparent marks of presumption could not escape satire. He was considered as a literary empiric, and (as before at Paris) the place of his residence was signified to such as wished to see his exhibitions: but Crichton, not at all daunted, entered the lists, and in

the presence of the pope and cardinals, again bore away the palm of victory.

On leaving Rome he directed his course to Venice; and from some Latin lines still extant, which he composed on this occasion, it seems that, notwithstanding all the reputation which he had acquired, he was either distressed in mind, or laboured under some pecuniary embarrassment. Having, however, introduced himself to Aldus Manutius, who was amazed by his extraordinary endowments, he was brought acquainted, by means of this distinguished scholar, with the literati of that city, and afterwards had the honour to attract the notice of the doge and senate; before whom he pronounced an unpremeditated complimentary oration with such dignified oratory and force of eloquence, that he received the thanks of that illustrious body, and was universally considered as a prodigy.

From Venice he repaired to Padua, the university of which place was at that time in the highest reputation. Here he engaged in another disputation, beginning with an extemporary poem in praise of the place and his auditors; and after disputing six hours with the most celebrated professors, whom he foiled on every subject which they started, he concluded, to the astonishment of every hearer, with an unpremeditated poem in commendation of ignorance.

Amidst all his literary conquests, he continued his pursuit of pleasure with the same eagerness, as if it had been his sole study. So contradictory were his merits, and such was the versatility of his talents, that he became the subject of envy as much as admiration. Few were willing to allow one man to carry away so many prizes; and in proportion to his fame, the opposition of his revilers increased. Crichton was not insensible of this: and to silence at once the invidious detractors of his talents, he caused a paper to be posted up, in which he offered to prove that there were innumerable errors in the works of Aristotle, and gross ignorance in his in-

interpreters ; at the same time that he was ready to dispute in all the sciences, to answer any questions, and to repel any objections, either by logic, or a hundred kinds of verse, or by analytical investigations and mathematical figures. This contest he maintained for three days ; and conducted himself with such spirit and energy, and so completely vanquished his opponents, that he obtained the loudest plaudits.

The literary fame of the admirable Crichton by this time had spread over the remotest parts of Italy ; and when he came to Mantua, he had an opportunity of signalising himself by a feat of arms. A prize-fighter who had defeated the most celebrated masters in Europe, had fixed his residence for a time in Mantua, and had killed three persons who had entered the lists against him. The duke of that place therefore began to regret that he had granted his protection to this licensed murderer : which, reaching the ears of Crichton, he was fired with the ambition of ridding the world of such a sanguinary monster ; and offered to stake fifteen hundred pistoles, and to mount the stage against him. With some reluctance the duke consented ; and every thing being prepared, this single combat was exhibited before the assembled court, and an immense concourse of spectators. Their weapon was the single rapier, then newly introduced into Italy. The prize-fighter advanced with great impetuosity ; while Crichton contented himself with parrying his thrusts, and suffered him to exhaust his own vigour, before he himself attempted to charge. At last, watching his opportunity, Crichton became the assailant ; and pressed upon his antagonist with such force and agility, that he ran him thrice through the body, and saw him expire. He then generously divided the prize which he had won among the widows whose husbands had been killed by his late antagonist.

The duke of Mantua conceived the highest esteem for this illustrious stranger ; and made choice of him for preceptor to his son Vincentio di Gonzaga, a prince of

dissolute manners and turbulent disposition. The appointment was highly acceptable to the court: and Crichton, to evince his gratitude, and to contribute to the amusement of his patrons, composed a comedy, in which he exposed and ridiculed all the principal weaknesses and miscarriages of men, with the most poignant satire and propriety of application; and in the representation of this play he himself exhibited fifteen different characters, with such inimitable ease and grace, that he appeared every time to be another person.

But the time was now approaching which was to prove, that with all his endowments Crichton was no more than mortal. Roving about the streets one night, during the carnival, and playing on the guitar, he was attacked by six men in masks. His courage did not desert him on this critical occasion: he opposed them with such spirit and skill that they were glad to fly; and their leader, being disarmed, threw off his mask, and begged his life. How must it have wounded the sensibility of Crichton, to discover in the suppliant, the prince his pupil! Instead of merely granting the forfeited life, which was all that ought to have been required, he fell on his knees, apologised for his mistake, and, presenting his sword to the prince, told him that his highness was always master of his poor existence, and needed not to have sought his death by treachery. The brutal prince, either irritated by the affront which he had received, or stung with jealousy, grasped the proffered instrument of destruction, and plunged it into his tutor's heart.

Thus fell the admirable Crichton, in the very bloom of youth, by the hands of one worse than a common assassin. The court of Mantua testified their esteem for his memory by a public mourning, and the contemporary wits expressed their grief in numerous elegiac compositions; and for a long time afterwards his picture decorated the chambers and galleries of the Italian nobility, representing him on horseback with a lance in one hand and a book in the other. His death, according to the

best accounts, took place in 1582, when he was only twenty-two years of age.

That a man who, during his short but brilliant career, filled such a space in the minds of men, should have many of his most memorable achievements disputed, is mortifying to those who are animated with a love of posthumous reputation. The case seems to be, that whatever character is raised too high in one age, is sure to be sunk too low in another. Envy, which is afraid to attack exalted living merit, consoles itself with preying on the dead. The fame of Crichton, like that of an actor, was chiefly confined to those who had witnessed his achievements. He wrote little, but he performed much: the latter was soon forgotten, or blended with fiction; and the few specimens which he has left of his intellectual powers, either do not rise above mediocrity, or at least would not entitle him to extraordinary praise. He blazed like a meteor for a moment: his coruscations dazzled the eyes of the beholder; but when he vanished, the impression which he had made was no where to be found. Yet he was certainly one of the most accomplished men that ever appeared. To those who feel the aspirings of genius, he furnishes an example of the heights to which it can ascend; to those who are less gifted by nature, his unsettled life and his melancholy end may at least teach acquiescence in the humbler gifts which Providence has assigned to them.

SIR FRANCIS WALSINGHAM.

Born 1536. — Died 1590.*From 27th Henry VIII. to 32nd Elizabeth.*

No period in English history is more illustrious than the reign of Elizabeth for the great men which it produced in every department of the state, and who were called into action by that penetrating judge of merit, who then sat on the throne. Indeed, half the glory of this sovereign may be fairly ascribed to the abilities of her ministers: nor does this in the least derogate from her just fame; for, to adopt the sentiment of an acute discerner of men and manners, "no weak prince was ever known to choose a wise council."

Among the worthies who contributed to the honour of Elizabeth's reign, and gave stability to her government, sir Francis Walsingham occupies a prominent place. As an able politician, and an honest man, he was celebrated by his contemporaries; and he seems to have deserved the highest praises which they could bestow, as the subsequent notices of his life will evince.

This statesman was born at Chislehurst in Kent, of an ancient and honourable family; but it is a matter of serious regret that no memorials of his early life, which can serve to stimulate the youthful bosom to follow his steps, have been preserved by the historians of his time. It only appears that he was educated at King's College, Cambridge, and soon after sent on his travels into foreign countries. His attachment to the principles of the Reformation, however, were well known while he was under the shade of academic bowers; and perhaps it was fortunate for him that he was abroad, during the sanguinary reign of Mary.

With a genius turned for politics, he availed himself of every opportunity which his travels afforded, of acquiring

an intimate acquaintance with the laws, government, customs, and manners of the nations on the continent; and such were his accomplishments and known aptitude for public business, that on his return he speedily attracted the notice and was taken into the confidence of Cecil, by whom he was brought forward, in a manner suitable to his talents and views.

That he possessed a maturity of parts, even when he first launched on the ocean of politics, may be inferred from this circumstance: he was appointed ambassador to the court of France during the civil wars in that kingdom; and acquitted himself there with such zeal and ability in various important and delicate transactions, particularly in a negotiation relative to a treaty of marriage between his mistress and the duke of Alençon, and afterwards between her and the duke of Anjou, that he was ever after considered as fully qualified to discharge the most weighty trusts, at home or abroad. The papers that passed during these embassies were collected by sir Dudley Digges, and published under the title of the *COMPLETE AMBASSADOR*; and from these, his penetration, judgment, and abilities, may be distinctly appreciated. But no part of his character is more estimable than his perfect disinterestedness. Elizabeth, though she could distinguish merit, was sparing in her rewards: accordingly Walsingham, zealous to support the dignity of his station and to promote the interest of his sovereign, incurred greater expenses than his public allowances would defray; and it appears that he rather impaired than bettered his circumstances, during his residence in France. On his return, however, he received the honour of knighthood; and when his firm friend and patron Cecil was raised to the peerage by the title of lord Burleigh, and made lord-treasurer, Walsingham was appointed one of the secretaries of state, and sworn of the privy-council.

In this situation, he not only gratefully supported Burleigh's power and influence, by which he had himself

risen : but on a variety of occasions detected and disconcerted intrigues and conspiracies at home ; and with an intuitive sagacity penetrated into the most secret designs of foreign cabinets.

The states of Holland were now just rising into political consequence. Walsingham was sent over in 1578, as the queen's representative, at one of their early meetings ; and by his influence and address he contributed much to form the basis of their union, which was successfully consolidated the following year.

In short, on every occasion where skilful management and consummate address were deemed requisite, Walsingham had the honour to be employed. " To him," says Lloyd, " most faces spoke as well as their tongues, and their countenance was an index of their hearts." He also maintained a number of spies and agents, and thus developed the most secret designs, before they were ripe for execution.

Being attached to the protestant religion, he settled its constitutional polity, and disconcerted all the intrigues of the papists ; who not only dreaded his penetration, but complained of his insidious artifice, which was an overmatch for their own. At first he showed a predilection for the puritans ; but finding that they would not make the least advance to uniformity, even in the most harmless ceremonies, he left them to their narrow principles, and obstinate prejudices.

Intelligence having been received that the young king of Scotland, afterwards James the First of England, on whom the queen always kept a watchful eye, was placing his confidence in favourites whom she disliked, Walsingham was dispatched to break through his delusion, or to create an opposition party in his court. The latter point he effected ; but he seems to have formed a wrong estimate of the character and abilities of the youthful monarch. This prince testified an uncommon fondness for literature, and talked sensibly on his favourite topics. Walsingham, being well versed in ancient and modern

authors, pleased him by his quotations from Xenophon, Thucydides, Plutarch, and Tacitus; and on subjects of general knowledge they interchanged sentiments with mutual freedom and satisfaction. This politician thought he foresaw that so much theory as James possessed would, at a maturer age, be turned to useful practice, and he gave a report accordingly; but in this he proved to have been deceived. James might have made an useful academical tutor, or even a professor; but his mind was rather contracted than enlarged for public business by his attachment to the classics, and by his taste for polemics, in which latter he was a proficient. A mind not originally great, is only rendered more conspicuously feeble, by an undigested mass of learning; just as a clown appears more ridiculous in a court dress than in his own.

When Elizabeth had determined on the trial and condemnation of her unfortunate rival Mary queen of Scots, Walsingham was appointed one of the commissioners in this tragical business. He had previously exerted himself with great industry and effect to develope the plot of Babington's conspiracy, in which Mary was implicated; and appears to have been guided in this whole transaction by the purest sentiments of loyalty and moral obligation; for he rejected as infamous a scheme pressed by Leicester of taking off the captive queen by poison.

In the course of the trial, when Mary charged him with counterfeiting her cypher, and practising against her life and that of her son, Walsingham rose with a dignified emotion, and protested that his heart was free from all malice towards the prisoner; calling God to witness, that in his private capacity he had done nothing unbecoming an honest man, nor in his public capacity any thing unworthy of his station. He declared that he had done what his duty and allegiance prompted, and by those principles alone had regulated his conduct. Mary, with noble frankness and generosity, gave credit to his protestation; and even apologised for having believed what she had heard against him.

When all Europe was kept in fearful expectation by the vast armaments which the king of Spain was preparing, and no one could penetrate into his real design, Walsingham employed every manœuvre that a long habitude with politics could suggest, to discover this important secret ; and learning from an emissary at Madrid, that the king had avowed to his council the sending off a letter to the pope, begging his benediction on the design which he had avowed in it, (a design however which he did not choose to divulge till he had obtained an answer,) the artful secretary, by means of a priest who was his spy at Rome, procured a copy of the original letter, which was stolen out of the pope's cabinet by a gentleman of his bed-chamber, while he slept.

Having by this dexterous management developed the mystery which had puzzled the deepest politicians, he prevented the Spaniards, by obstacles which he raised, from receiving those pecuniary supplies which would have enabled them to put to sea ; and thus the sailing of the armada was delayed for a whole year.

By his intense application to public business, Walsingham seems to have hastened that moment which no human power or address can at last escape. He died in the fifty-fourth year of his age ; and, though he had held some of the highest and most lucrative stations, did not leave enough to defray the last offices due to mortality. To save his body from an arrest, his friends were obliged to bury him by night in St. Paul's church ; without the respect and honour due to such a rare instance of political sagacity, disinterested zeal, and pure patriotism. He left only one daughter, who was married successively to three very distinguished characters ; Sir Philip Sidney, Devereux earl of Essex, and Bourke earl of Clanrickard and St. Albans.

In Walsingham, his too penurious mistress lost one of her most faithful servants, and the public one of its best friends. He seems to have been one of those statesmen in whom the noblest virtues love to dwell. He pursued

the good of his country by all practicable means, regardless of every other object. He was eminently instrumental in promoting voyages of discovery, and every useful scheme of trade and navigation. The protestant religion found in him a warm and a judicious supporter, and all the machinations of Rome to overthrow it fell beneath his superior address.

His negotiations, or state-papers, display at once his literary and his political talents. A manual of prudential maxims, entitled *ARCANA AULICA*, is likewise ascribed to him, though with no sufficient authority. It is very probable, however, that some of the most valuable sentiments found in his work were borrowed from him : one of these, which his whole public life illustrated, is as follows : " Knowledge is never bought too dear."

That this great and good statesman was a patron of literature, is evident from his founding a divinity-lecture at Oxford, as also a library at King's college Cambridge. He assisted Hackluyt ; and his purse as well as his influence were always at the service of those who were qualified to do honour to their country by their arms or arts, by their enterprise or their talents. It was impossible indeed to escape a man of Walsingham's penetration, that the patronage of merit and talents in general is the glory and the best support of government ; or, in other words, that knowledge and virtue are the gales by which states are wafted into the port of prosperity and honour.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

Born 1545. — Died 1596.*From 36th Henry VIII. to 38th Elizabeth.*

THE illustrious names which throw a splendour on the age of Elizabeth are so numerous, that selection becomes difficult. It produced men eminent in all the arts that give a security to nations, or embellish the walks of private life : heroes, adventurers, statesmen, poets, and scholars, rose in quick succession, or rather were contemporary ; and except during the present and part of the last, in no preceding or subsequent reign have such brilliant naval achievements been performed.

Among those who by their courage and nautical skill contributed to ennoble their country, and the great princess whom they served, the first English circumnavigator, Drake, stands conspicuous. He was the eldest son of twelve children, and born at a village near Tavistock, in Devonshire. His father was a mariner, but his circumstances are not known. He had the good fortune, however, to be connected by marriage with sir John Hawkins ; who took young Drake under his patronage, and gave him that kind of education which was best adapted to a marine life, for which he was destined from his infancy. A cloud frequently hangs over the early years of celebrated characters, which late biography in vain attempts to pierce. Of the juvenile period of Drake's life, not a single incident has descended to posterity. The first record of his active life is, that by the interest of his patron, co-operating with his own abilities, he was appointed purser of a ship trading to Biscay, about the eighteenth year of his age. At twenty, he made a voyage to Guinea, which then began to be visited ; and two years afterwards was appointed to the command of a vessel. In

this capacity, he particularly distinguished himself in the glorious action which took place under his patron sir John Hawkins, at St. John de Ulloa, in the harbour of Mexico; and returned to England with a rising reputation; but without the least advancement in his fortune. The event of this voyage seems to have given him a rooted enmity to the Spaniards, which terminated only with his life. In those times the law of nations seems to have been interpreted with great laxity; and predatory voyages against the rich Spanish settlements were frequently undertaken by private adventurers, rather with the connivance than the sanction of their sovereign. In such expeditions, where the love of enterprise or thirst of gain was the ruling motive, Drake took a very active part; yet his success, and the aversion to the Spanish name which had then become national here, always protected him from a strict enquiry into the authority under which he acted, or the means which he pursued to effectuate his designs.

He made three successive voyages against the Spanish settlements in America; and besides doing much mischief to individuals, obtained a considerable share of booty; which, greatly to his honour, he divided with strict impartiality among the companions of his fortune, and those who had risked any thing in his undertakings. This conduct, so just and praiseworthy, gained him a high reputation, and made him the idol of his men.

With the fruits of his industry and his courage, he now fitted out three frigates, and sailed for Ireland; where he served as a volunteer under Walter earl of Essex, and performed signal acts of valour. On the death of this nobleman he returned to England; where he was introduced to the queen by sir Christopher Hatton, and very favourably received at court. Thus basking in the rays of royal favour, his views expanded to nobler achievements than he had yet attempted, and he projected an expedition which will render his name immortal.

When a man of an ardent imagination once gives him-

self up to the pursuit of interest or ambition, nothing appears too arduous that flatters his darling passion. Having in one of his former expeditions obtained a prospect of the great South Sea, Drake determined that no obstacles or dangers should deter him from endeavouring to spread his sails on that ocean. But indefatigable as he was in the pursuit of his design, it was not till the year 1577 that he had collected a force sufficient to man five vessels: when, by a particular royal commission, he appeared as admiral, or (as the phrase then was) *general* of the squadron.

The fleet equipped for this important expedition consisted of the Pelican, of one hundred tons, the flag-ship; the Elizabeth, the Marygold, the Swan, and the Christopher, all of inferior burden. These vessels were partly fitted out at his own risk, and partly at the expense of others; and manned with a hundred and sixty-four select mariners. They were stored with all necessary provisions, and at the same time furnished with whatever could contribute, to ornament or delight; carrying a band of music, rich furniture, and specimens of the most elegant productions of this country. The admiral's table was equipped with silver utensils, and even the cook-room was decorated with the same costly metal. This apparent ostentation, however, might be the effect of policy rather than vanity. Of the respect which is always paid to the externals of opulence, Drake was fully sensible; and he omitted no means of keeping up an appearance, suitable to the station which he now held.

Though his reputation was by this time sufficiently blazoned; yet either prudently reflecting on the difficulties to which his men had been exposed in former transatlantic expeditions, which might have deterred the less resolute, or probably to conceal his design from the court of Spain, he gave out that his intended voyage was to Alexandria; nor was his real destination known, till he reached the coast of Brazil.



Drake



Alfred



Shakespeare



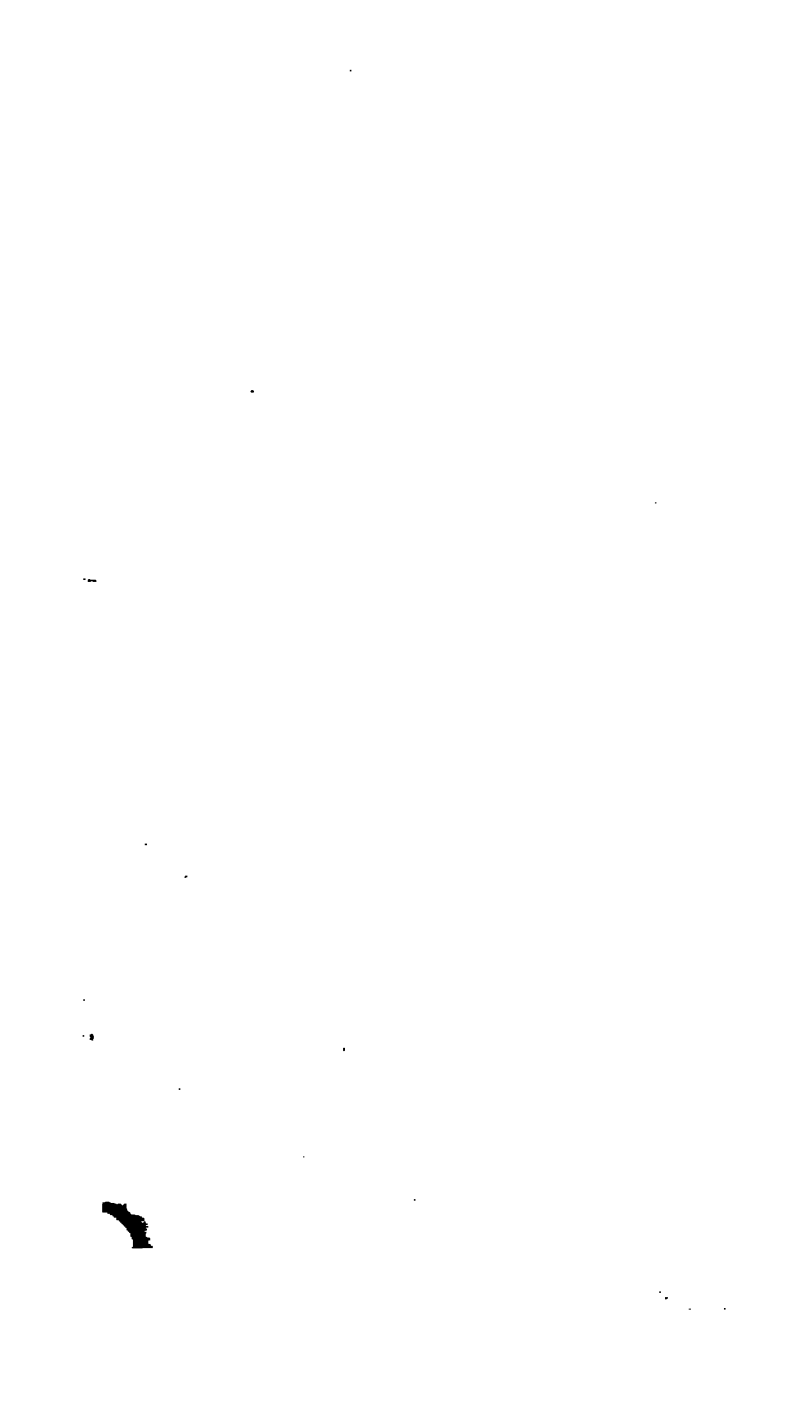
Raleigh



Bacon



Tillotson



Every requisite preparation having been made, Drake sailed from Plymouth on the 15th of November, 1577; but soon after was forced by tempestuous weather into Falmouth; whence he took his final departure on the 13th of December, with all the auspicious indications of a favourable voyage.

On the 5th of April he made the coast of Brazil, no important occurrence intervening; and entered the river De la Plata, where he parted company with two of his smaller ships; but meeting them again, and transporting the men and provisions into the rest, he turned them adrift.

After encountering a dreadful storm, in which the admiral was saved by the skill and intrepidity of his second in command, on the 29th of May they entered the port of St. Julian, not far from the Straits of Magellan; where they lay two months, in order to make preparations for passing that dangerous and hitherto little-known channel.

At St. Julian, a tragedy was acted which impartiality obliges the biographer to record. Drake, having summoned his principal officers to attend a court-martial, opened his commission, which gave him power of life and death; and with considerable eloquence (which he possessed, notwithstanding his imperfect education) began to charge a gentleman named Doughty, who had long been the object of his dislike, with first plotting to murder him, and then to ruin the enterprise. Jealousy of his talents and his worth is generally thought to have alone prompted this persecution. However this may be, malice backed by power will seldom fail of accomplishing its object, particularly where the influence of the laws is too distant to be felt or feared. Of this melancholy affair there are various and even contradictory accounts; but none, though they palliate the admiral's conduct, can wipe away the suspicion of deliberate cruelty. With a mockery of justice, while he observed some of its least important forms, he condemned to death a gentleman who had been his friend, and who followed his fortunes, by the admiral's

own particular solicitations. The mock tribunal which had been instituted by Drake, and over which he himself presided, confirmed the sentence. The ill-fated Doughty obtained only the respite of a single day, to settle all his affairs both temporal and spiritual. The admiral, it is said, received the communion with him; and, with an hypocritical show of regard, assured him of his prayers

The consciousness of his innocence seems to have supported this unhappy victim. He broke out into no invectives against his prejudiced judges; he even preserved a serenity of countenance and mind, recommended his friends to the candour of Drake, and submitted to the axe of the executioner with constancy and fortitude.

The admiral, by plausible harangues and excuses, endeavoured to justify his conduct; but though the panic-struck crew might acquiesce in his decision, at the present day Drake must be thought indefensible in the whole of this business, as far at least as a review of the existing documents enables posterity now to judge. Cruelty ought ever to be the object of abhorrence, and the more so when it assumes the insidious mask of justice.

The fleet being now reduced to three ships, Drake bade adieu to port St. Julian, and on the 20th of August entered the Straits of Magellan; which, notwithstanding the intricacy and difficulty of this navigation, he passed in sixteen days, a shorter space of time than has ever been employed by any succeeding navigator.

No sooner however had the expedition entered the great South Sea, than they were overtaken by a violent storm, which continued without intermission for nearly a month: during which time the ships were dispersed; and left Drake at least two hundred leagues out of his course, in latitude 55 degrees south. Here they discovered a number of small islands; and were fortunate enough to obtain a supply of refreshments, by an interchange of such toys as are always valuable in the estimation of barbarians.

Departing from these shores, another storm of much greater violence arose, and drove them to the very extremity of the South-American coast; where they saw for the first time the conflux of the southern and western oceans; and at length had the good fortune to navigate a calm unruffled sea, to which they had so long been strangers.

Drake now directed his course to the appointed place of rendezvous in case of the separation of the fleet: but when he arrived at the wished-for latitude, he found neither ships nor convenient harbours; and therefore steered directly to Macoa, where the natives at first exhibited an appearance of friendship. But probably mistaking them for Spaniards, a nation whom they had reason to detest, they soon after laid an ambush for a watering party, killed two of the crew, and slightly wounded the admiral under the eye with an arrow.

This disaster induced them to shorten their stay: and now sailing along the coasts of Chili and Peru, they carried terror wherever they appeared; and plundered ships and rich towns with so little opposition, that the men became satiated with spoil, and began to indulge the wish of returning to their native land to enjoy it. But the admiral was fired with glory no less than avarice; and expatiated on the honour as well as the utility of discovering a nearer passage to Europe, which he did not deem impracticable.

His influence and authority prevailed; and with a view of exploring a north-west passage, they proceeded to the latitude of 45 degrees north. But here the cold proved so intolerable to persons long accustomed to a warm climate, that he was obliged to desist from the further prosecution of his design: and measuring back their course to California, they put into a harbour of that peninsula; where the natives received them in the most hospitable manner, and even offered to confer the sovereign power on the admiral. This compliment, of course, he declined for himself; but transferred the proffered

allegiance to his mistress, queen Elizabeth, and took possession of the country (to which he gave the appellation of New Albion) in her name. The ceremony being ended, the simple natives demonstrated the highest respect and veneration for the strangers; and lacerated their bodies in the severest manner, as is customary among savage nations, when actuated by grief or joy.

Though the acquisition of this territory was only valuable, either to the admiral or his country, for furnishing supplies and as a resting-place on the present occasion, Drake seems to have prided himself much on the voluntary grant; and before his departure, caused the circumstances of the resignation to be engraven on a brass plate, and fixed up as a memorial of the transaction.

No sooner were the Indians sensible that their new friends were about to leave them, than they burst out into the most lively expressions of sorrow. As the ships receded from the shore, they ascended the hills to prolong their view of them; and lighted up fires, as if they intended to make sacrifices. Indeed, when we consider with what profound respect, almost bordering on adoration, the Spaniards were first received on this continent, it is not unlikely that the simple natives of California might act under similar impressions: certain it is, that the conduct of Drake long rendered the English popular among these barbarous tribes.

It was on the 23d of July that he quitted those shores; and after a general consultation, it was agreed on to proceed to the Moluccas. In the latitude of 20 degrees north, he fell in with some islands where the natives at first showed signs of amity, and readily bartered their commodities; but, emboldened by the mild behaviour of the English, they became insolent; when the discharge of an unshot piece of ordnance checked the progress of their unprovoked aggression.

On the 3d of November, they had a joyful view of the Moluccas, and touched at Ternate: whose king appears to have been a wise and politic prince, and kept

dignified regal state ; while he was not deficient in paying proper honour and respect to his visitors.

Here they shipped between four and five tons of cloves, refitted the ships, and refreshed the crews ; but just as they were about to sail, they had the inhumanity to abandon a male and female negro taken from one of the Spanish prizes. The poor girl, it seems, was only about fifteen years of age ; and either by Drake or one of his companions, had become in that state which entitled her to protection, from every manly and feeling heart. It is impossible to mention an incident of this kind, without most severely reprobating such cruel and atrocious conduct. .

In their course towards Celebes, they fell in with a number of islands, the names of which are not recorded : but just as they flattered themselves with having escaped the dangers incident to such a navigation, the ship struck during the night on a hidden rock ; and the murmurs of the crew at such a protracted voyage, which had long been with difficulty repressed, now broke out into all the virulence of invective, and the wildness of despair. Fletcher, the chaplain, was particularly severe against the admiral : but he, feeling the dreadful catastrophe in which they were involved, disguised his resentment at the rude attacks which he was obliged to endure ; tried to conciliate the minds of his people by every lenitive art that experience could devise ; and in the midst of the most imminent danger of universal ruin, preserved a courage, prudence, and presence of mind, unaltered.

At last, when every ray of hope was gone, and they expected to be swallowed up without leaving a single memorial of their adventures behind, the wind suddenly shifted, and the surges heaved the ship off the rock. They now continued their course to Baratane ; where they were hospitably received, and repaired the damage which they had sustained.

Departing thence, they proceeded to Java ; and took in a fresh supply of provisions, with an intention of prosecuting the voyage to Malacca : but the crew now became

absolutely mutinous, and insisted on the admiral's directly steering for Europe.

Being obliged to yield to their menaces, the admiral directed his course towards the Cape of Good Hope: but in order to satiate his resentment on some individual as a terror to the rest, he seized on Fletcher, who had been loud in censuring his conduct when the ship was in danger of being lost; and accusing him of inciting the crew to opposition, went through the same forms of external justice as had been employed in the case of Doughty, and concluded with deposing him from the priesthood in a singular form of excommunication; and afterwards degraded him to the rank and duty of a common seaman, with every mark of disgrace.

On the 15th of June, 1580, they doubled the Cape of Good Hope: and, without any other occurrence worthy of remark, reached Plymouth on the 3d of November; having performed the circumnavigation of the globe in two years and about ten months.

The news of Drake's arrival was soon disseminated over the kingdom; and as this was an age when heroic deeds met the highest admiration and regard, the admiral's reputation reached the most exalted pitch, and the fame of his accumulated wealth heightened the respect which was paid him.

Yet as merit and enterprise will always excite envy, his conduct and principles were not only canvassed by his countrymen, but the Spanish ambassador exerted himself to have him declared a pirate, notwithstanding the royal commission. The queen, with that policy for which she was distinguished, heard the arguments of his friends and opponents; but concealed her own sentiments, till a proper opportunity offered of divulging them.

In this state of painful suspense, Drake remained for some months; uncertain whether he should be declared a benefactor to his country, or its disgrace. At length, when matters were sufficiently ripe for an avowal, the queen threw off the veil at once; and went on board his

ship at Deptford, where she was magnificently entertained ; and conferred the honour of knighthood on our navigator, observing that his actions did him more honour than his title. She also gave orders for the preservation of the ship which had performed such an extraordinary voyage, and it was long visited as an object of public curiosity ; till, becoming so much decayed that it could no longer be kept together, a chair was made out of the planks, and presented to the university of Oxford, where it is now preserved in the museum.

After this public testimony of royal approbation, envy and malice were obliged to hide their heads, and all ranks were zealous to congratulate Sir Francis ; and he had a coat of arms assigned him, appropriate to his pursuits and his talents.

With regard to the quantity of treasure amassed in this successful enterprise, there are various opinions ; but, by the best accounts, it could not be less than a million sterling. As to the distribution, it appears that all parties were satisfied ; and the manner of his reception gave a confirmation to the truth of the old maxim, that “ he who brings money brings his welcome with him.”

Having accompanied this naval hero round the globe, the first commander that ever accomplished such a voyage, (for Magellan was cut off before his return,) it will undoubtedly gratify juvenile curiosity to know his future destinies.

In 1585 he was again called into action, as admiral of an expedition against the Spanish West Indies ; in which his usual success attended him. Two years after, he was sent to Lisbon : but receiving intelligence that the Spaniards were assembling a fleet at Cadiz to invade England, he sailed into that port, and burnt ten thousand tons of shipping, exclusive of all the warlike stores.

New successes gave rise to new honours. Next year he was appointed vice-admiral under Lord Howard of Effingham ; and distinguished himself against the Spanish armada, in such a manner as deserves the unqualified praise

of all posterity. General history records the triumphs of our countrymen on this glorious occasion ; and on a transaction of such importance the humbler duty of biography is sufficiently fulfilled by referring to our own national annals.

The very name of Drake was now a shield to his sovereign, and the terror of her foes. His merits were duly appreciated by the queen ; and he was next dispatched with a squadron to assist in placing don Antonio on the throne of Portugal. Here the event was not equal to the courage and talents employed in the expedition. Spain indeed was partially baffled, but England was little benefited. Drake was not formed so much to co-operate with others, as to execute his own bold and original designs.

The sun of glory which had so long shone upon him with full lustre, was now verging to its decline. A formidable expedition against the Spanish settlements was projected soon after this failure, in which Drake and his relation and first patron, Hawkins, were appointed commanders.

After an attack on the Canaries, in which they miscarried, the fleet arrived before Porto Rico ; when they held a council, and it was determined to make an assault on the ships in the harbour. The strength of the fortifications rendered this attempt also fruitless, and sir John Hawkins fell a victim to the climate. The very same evening, while the principal officers were at supper, a cannon-ball entering the cabin killed sir Nicholas Clifford, mortally wounded another gentleman, and carried away the stool on which sir Francis Drake was seated. Thus Fortune once more befriended him, before she bade him a final adieu.

After committing several depredations in these seas, to the injury and vexation of the Spaniards, they proceeded on their grand design, which was to cross the isthmus of Panama ; but in this they were likewise foiled.

Repeated disappointments, to which he had been so

little accustomed, preyed on the mind of Drake with such pungent force, that he fell into a melancholy ; in which state, being seized with the bloody flux, he quitted this life at Nombre de Dios, without leaving any children, in January 1596.

In stature this accomplished seaman was low, but well set ; his chest was broad and open ; his head very round ; his eyes large and clear ; his complexion fresh ; and his whole countenance animated and engaging. In England his death was lamented with the sincerest demonstrations of sorrow ; and his character for perseverance and fortitude, for all that can exalt the hero and intrepid commander, was so firmly fixed in the hearts of his countrymen, that time can never tarnish his just laurels. Yet his defects as a man were very considerable : and if he excelled most in his great qualities, he sunk beneath the mass of mankind in some essential characteristics of humanity. Impatient of control, avaricious, and despotic, he was rather formed to excite fear than to attract regard. Untinctured with the liberal arts, except as far as they were connected with navigation (in which he stood unrivalled), he evinced none of those weaknesses which are an honour to our nature ; and lived without seeming to enjoy life, except when some successful enterprise shed the casual gleam of satisfaction on his heart. Favoured by the smiles of Fortune till he vainly fancied that he had chained the fickle goddess, he could not endure her frowns ; and has left a moral to posterity, " that a long series of uninterrupted prosperity seldom promotes the ultimate happiness of a being so weak and so frail as man."

WILLIAM CECIL,

LORD BURLEIGH.

Born 1520. — Died 1598.*From 11th Henry VIII. to 40th Elizabeth.*

IN a private station a good man may be estimable, but when raised to rank and power, he becomes eminently meritorious. The more the sphere of his activity is enlarged, and the higher the summit from which his influence is felt, the greater are his glory and his utility. All those virtues and that wisdom which in privacy are only calculated to win the applause of his own heart, or the veneration of a discerning few, then spread their delightful energies over a range worthy of their force and direction, promote the general welfare, and embrace whatever is great or good.

These reflections were suggested by contemplating the life of Cecil; a man who, during the long space of forty years, and amidst many eventful scenes, was a principal minister of state, and directed the machine of government with a wise and steady aim.

William Cecil was born at Bourn, in Lincolnshire, the native place of his mother. His father was Richard Cecil, esq. of Burleigh, in the county of Northampton; principal officer of the robes to Henry the Eighth, and a distinguished favourite of that monarch.

Young Cecil imbibed the first rudiments of learning at the grammar-schools of Grantham and Stamford; and gave early indications of those solid and shining talents, which were to adorn his future life. His thirst for knowledge was excessive; and his father, willing to humour the bent of his mind, sent him, when still a boy, to St. John's college, Cambridge. Here intense application, united to a pregnant genius, soon procured him

distinction in the literary career: but from too little attention to those springs by which the human machine is kept in repair, and its faculties improved, he indulged his sedentary disposition to such an inordinate degree, that he had nearly lost the use of his limbs: and certainly laid the foundation of that tormenting disease the gout, which at intervals preyed on his constitution for life, and gradually sapped the foundation of his vital powers.

Before he had completed his nineteenth year he left Cambridge, full of academic distinctions, which he had richly merited; and entered Gray's-Inn, London, to prosecute the study of the law as a profession. Here his proficiency was as rapid as in the acquisition of general learning; and it is probable that he might have risen to the height of juridical eminence, had not his better fortune called him to other pursuits, still more adapted to his capacity and endowments.

—The point on which the success or miscarriage of men turns, is often influenced by such accidental causes as neither prudence can direct, nor any human foresight is able to anticipate. This position, which in itself is liable to no contradiction, receives a forcible illustration, from the incident by which Cecil rose to honour.

Towards the close of the reign of Henry the Eighth, Cecil, being on a visit to his father at court, accidentally met two priests in the presence-chamber, chaplains to the famous Irish chief, O'Neal; and by way of filling up the interval of waiting, fell into conversation with them on theological subjects. A warm dispute ensued, which was carried on in Latin: and so closely were the bigots of superstition pressed by the youthful advocate for the doctrines of the Reformation, that they felt themselves overpowered, and burst from him in a paroxysm of rage. The advantage which Cecil had gained was immediately reported to the king; who, being pleased to find a champion of the cause which he himself had espoused, ordered him into his presence. Henry was so

delighted with the young stranger's good sense and address, that he promised him the first vacant place at court, compatible with his views ; and in the mean time he was complimented with the reversion of the office of *custos-brevium*, or keeper of the briefs. About this remarkable period, on which his future fortune hinged, he married a sister of sir John Cheke ; who left him a widower with one son, in less than two years after their nuptials. Five years after, he espoused Miss Mildred Cooke, daughter of sir Anthony Cooke, tutor to Edward the Sixth ; a lady of uncommon merit and accomplishments.

Being thus connected, by marriage, with two of the most distinguished scholars of the age ; and possessing in his wife not a rival, but an associate in study ; he was more ardently attached to literature than ever : but by no means to the neglect of the law, in which he became eminent ; though his access to court probably inspired him with more elevated expectations, which were afterwards abundantly gratified.

On the accession of Edward the Sixth, he was warmly recommended to the lord-protector Somerset ; and successively rose, under the high patronage and the favour of his sovereign, to be master of requests, *custos-rotulorum* (or keeper of the rolls) of Lincolnshire, and one of the principal secretaries of state. He also received the honour of knighthood, was sworn of the privy-council, and made chancellor of the order of the garter.

But these honours did not flow upon him in an uninterrupted stream. Though his good fortune and good sense always extricated him from difficulties, he experienced some of those reverses to which all public men are more or less obnoxious.

As his elevation was principally owing to his munificent patron, Somerset, he was involved in that nobleman's destinies. He attended him in his expedition to Scotland ; and at the battle of Musselburgh, was only saved from inevitable destruction by the generous interposition

of a friend, who pushed him out of the level of a cannon, and had his own arm shattered by the ball, which must otherwise have passed through Cecil's body.

When the protector was obliged to give way to the intrigues of a powerful army, Cecil was also committed to the Tower, where he remained three months ; but the young king, who seems to have entertained a warm affection for him, soon obliterated this disgrace by new honours. The destruction of his first patron, however, appearing inevitable, and the duke of Northumberland rapidly augmenting his own power and influence, Cecil was thrown into the most distressing perplexity how to avoid the storm, without incurring the disgrace of ingratitude. By some, who are no friends to his memory, it is said that, with the wariness of a politician and the easy tergiversation of a courtier, he strengthened his own interest by espousing the strongest cause ; but this assertion rests on no substantial grounds. He was prudent and circumspect, but nothing more. His answer to Somerset, who expressed his apprehension of some evil design against him, is dignified in the extreme, though it may appear cool to such a benefactor : " If you are not in fault," said he, " you may trust to your innocence ; if you are, I have nothing to say but to lament you."

Having strenuously opposed, at the council-board, the resolution for changing the succession of the crown in favour of Lady Jane Grey, though as privy-counsellor he witnessed it as the act and deed of the king, Mary was so much pleased with his behaviour, that soon after her accession she granted him a general pardon ; and made him a tender of the office of secretary and counsellor, provided he would embrace the catholic religion. But Cecil, whose attachment to the Reformation was founded on principle, and who seems to have been sincerely pious, after thanking her majesty, and professing his zeal for her service as far as conscience would allow, requested her indulgence to withdraw from the public councils, and to lead a life of privacy and content. Among other

expressions which he used on this occasion, the following deserves to be remembered: "that he was taught and bound to serve God first, and next his sovereign; but if her service should put him out of God's service, he hoped her majesty would give him leave to choose an everlasting rather than a temporary reward."

— This freedom, in a man of such an established character for probity and wisdom, did not offend. The queen still treated sir William Cecil very graciously, and her ministers were sometimes glad to avail themselves of his political sagacity, by asking his advice. With all their bigotry, they were obliged to own that good sense and talents are of no particular religion; and this reputed *heretic* was frequently made the oracle of their decisions. Yet Cecil prudently forbore to step forward farther than he was absolutely compelled. He was satisfied with attending his duty in parliament as a representative for the county of Lincoln, in which character he avowed his sentiments with manly freedom; and, which shows his exalted reputation, he was never molested for either his religious or political opinions. Indeed he was highly respected by cardinal Pole; and had been deputed in the commencement of Mary's reign to conduct that exalted personage to England from Brussels.

The virtues and talents of Cecil were matured, not blighted, in the shade; and when Elizabeth mounted the throne, he was immediately called into action with happier omens, and appointed secretary of state. In this capacity, his tried prudence and address were essentially necessary to heal the wounds which the Reformation had received; and to emancipate the nation, without sanguinary measures, from the chains of Rome. By Cecil's advice, a conference was held in Westminster church between the most eminent divines of both persuasions; and soon afterwards that form of worship was resolved upon, which has almost ever since been the religious establishment of the church of England.

Having settled ecclesiastical affairs on a solid basis,

his next care was to compose his country's jarring interests, and to strengthen its internal and foreign relations: but in these great points, history can alone do full justice to his various merits, and biography must be satisfied with briefly narrating the prominent passages of his life. In 1560 he was made master of the wards; and the same year was sent to negotiate a peace between England, Scotland, and France. After the business, however, had been brought to a successful termination by the plenipotentiaries, the French court refused to ratify the treaty, and the whole fell to the ground.

Though in the full possession of his royal mistress's confidence, and universally respected as a man of superior political abilities, he had, as usual, to contend against jealousy and opposition: and the favourite and powerful Leicester, in order to strengthen his influence, putting himself at the head of the popish faction, which still was rather depressed than annihilated, Cecil, notwithstanding all his address, must inevitably have lost his station, and perhaps his life; had he not been firmly supported by Russell earl of Bedford and sir Nicholas Bacon. The latter was a man of congenial mind and talents; and the affection between him and the minister seems to have been almost fraternal.

But, though the secretary was thus rendered too powerful for his public enemies, he had almost fallen a victim to his private ones. The dark intrigues that were formed against him are too numerous to be here recounted, and too disgraceful to be preserved. On one occasion, he escaped assassination by slipping down the back-stairs, while a villain waited at the foot of the great staircase to dispatch him; on another, the hired ruffian who was to murder him, after gaining admission to his chamber, and grasping the instrument of death to strike, was stung with remorse, and shrunk from the perpetration of the deed.

Elizabeth, though she studied to balance the power and influence of her favourites and ministers, was not

of a temper to be overawed by a faction ; and beholding the prevalence of Leicester's party with some emotion, and their insidious arts against Cecil, (her most sage and confidential adviser,) she gave him a signal mark of her favour, which was rare in those days, in raising him to the peerage by the style and title of lord Burleigh ; and soon after appointed him lord-high-treasurer.

The object of royal favour is sure, like a focus, to concentrate the rays of public regard. The most virulent of Burleigh's former opponents were now anxious to obtain a claim to his friendship ; and courted the man with the humblest assiduities, whom they had before plotted to assassinate. Such is the petty and despicable course of political manceuvre, and so little dependence is to be placed on the smiles or the frowns of a party.

The interest of Burleigh had now become too strong to be shaken ; and it must be recorded to his honour, that he uniformly exerted it for the service of his sovereign, and the welfare of his country.

When Mary queen of Scots became a prisoner by the cruel policy of her rival Elizabeth, Cecil advised and practised lenient measures, as best adapted to the object in view : but when he found that infatuated princess engage in repeated conspiracies ; perhaps rather to regain her own independence than to overthrow the government of Elizabeth ; when he was satisfied by long experience, that the popish faction, which regarded Mary as its head, would never cease to plot and to undermine till she was removed from the stage of life ; he yielded to the pressure of circumstances, and acted (or thought he acted) politically right, though no doubt morally wrong. In short, he felt it his duty to give his sanction to her trial, condemnation, and execution : but with a sense of honour which his mistress did not possess, he avowed the necessity of the measure ; and did not meanly attempt to shelter himself behind a battery of hypocrisy, which Elizabeth played off, only to render herself still more criminal and contemptible. He remon-

strated with her against the disgrace of Davidson, who was the innocent agent of Mary's execution; and throughout preserved that consistency of character, which might have been expected from his approved wisdom and unvarying rectitude.

For some time he frustrated all the attempts of the court of Spain; whose machinations against England were justly suspected to have for their object the restoration of Mary to her kingdom, and the overthrow of the protestant religion; and when the execution of that unhappy queen put an end to the former part of the design, vengeance for her death stimulated the court of Madrid to make more formidable preparations than ever; while the thunder of the Vatican was summoned to aid the arms of infuriate bigotry.

Lord Burleigh, however, with that foresight for which he was remarkable, though he could no longer prevent the storm from bursting, had by the most persevering industry provided against its fatal effect. Availing himself of a ten years' peace, he had put the kingdom into such a posture of defence, and had so thoroughly detected the conspiracies of domestic traitors, that no event could come unexpected, or unprovided for. The naval force had been increased to an extent hitherto unknown; men of tried courage and experience were promoted to the command; and these causes, co-operating with the bravery of the English in defence of their religion, liberty, and homes, the redoubtable armada soon ceased to be an object of terror; and victory and independence triumphed on its ruins.

Happy in the undiminished favour of his sovereign, happy in the signal defeat of her enemies, and in the confidence of the nation, this period may be considered as the most glorious in the life of Burleigh; but, as if to show that human felicity is neither permanent nor secure, he soon after met with a severe affliction in the loss of his lady, with whom he had lived in the closest bands of affection for the long space of forty-three years, and

whose death cast a gloom over the remainder of his days. Lady Burleigh was not only amiable in every domestic relation; but in all respects, was an example and ornament to her sex. With learning and endowments almost more than masculine, she cultivated every feminine art that could improve youthful love into the most ardent and unalterable esteem. Her husband himself, falling into the vale of years, felt all the poignancy of lacerated affection; his constitution gave way to the shock, and public business became almost insupportable to him.

Being exhausted with incessant application, and no longer cheered with domestic regard, he earnestly solicited permission to resign all his employments; but the queen, fully sensible of the value of his services, encouraged him, by the most consoling attentions, to continue to be the principal manager of her affairs. She frequently visited him; and omitted no opportunity of soothing the languor of his declining age, and of flattering it by every demonstration of regard. Her pains were abundantly rewarded. The hoary statesman was roused to exert his accumulated wisdom for the public weal; and accordingly, during the last ten years of his life, he displayed on various important occasions all the zeal and vigour of unbroken youth. By his advice, the university of Dublin was founded; and no measure was concerted in the various departments of government, without the counsel and approbation of Burleigh. He was prime-minister in the most extensive sense of the word: and the ability, accuracy, and dispatch, which he evinced only a short time before his death, could scarcely be exceeded at the most active period of his life.

“To him,” says one of his biographers, “all ranks addressed themselves, to the very last. The bishops and clergy for preferment; the puritans for favourable treatment, and relief from ecclesiastical oppression; fugitives in foreign countries for pardon, which he granted in consideration of their useful intelligence respecting the designs of the nations among whom they sojourned; the

lieutenants of counties for instructions and advice ; the admirals for fleets and supplies ; in a word, the interests of the state abroad, and its domestic tranquillity at home, were provided for and preserved by this accomplished statesman, to his final hour."

But no honours or distinctions can ward off the stroke of fate. Age advanced, with all its train of ills ; and though his dissolution was slow, and the gradations easy, after languishing two or three months, he paid the debt of nature, on the 4th of August 1598.

" Now," to use the quaint but energetic words of the same writer from whom the foregoing extract was made, " might one see the whole world mourning : the queen for an old and true servant ; the council for a wise and grave counsellor ; the court for their honourable benefactor ; his country and the commonwealth trembling, as it were, at one blow to have their head stricken off ; the people, widows, and wards, lamenting to lose their protector ; Religion, her patron ; Justice, her true minister ; and Peace, her upholder ; his children bewailing the loss of such a father ; his friends, of such a friend ; and his servants, of such a master : all men rather bewailing his loss, than hoping ever to find such another. Yea his very enemies did now sorrow for his death, and wish him alive again."

In person, Burleigh was rather well-proportioned than tall ; he was very erect, till bent by the infirmities of age, and extremely active and alert in all his motions.

Viewed in every possible light, his character rises on our esteem. To the purest patriotism he united such a capacity for business as is seldom equalled. In his private affairs he was frugal rather than avaricious ; and though he left a good estate, it was raised by no meanness. It descended to his two sons ; who were both ennobled, and whose posterity still continue with an increase of honours. In public expenditure he was a rigid economist ; and when compared in this respect with the most celebrated statesmen of modern times, his inestimable worth will be more clearly seen. He never suffered the wealth of the nation to be exhausted for sinister ends, &c

diverted to wrong purposes. To uphold the honour and defence of the government, was the sole object which he proposed in raising supplies; and what was levied from the necessities or the superabundance of the people, he took care strictly to apply for their honour and advantage. No parasite was gratified with a pension, no venal supporter of his power with a bribe. It was a maxim with him, that when the treasury grew too great, the rest of the national body languished and pined away; he therefore wisely considered private opulence as the surest wealth of the state, and was accustomed to declare "that nothing is for a prince's profit, which is not for his honour also."

His character as drawn by Campden, who saw his meridian and his setting hour, is worthy of a place here: "Having lived long enough to nature," says that able historian, "and long enough to his own glory, but not long enough to his country, he resigned his soul to God with so much peace and tranquillity, that the greatest enemy he had freely declared, he envied him nothing, but that his sun went down with so much lustre. Certainly he was a most excellent man; for he was so liberally furnished by nature, and so polished and adorned with learning and education, that every way, for honesty, gravity, temperance, industry, and justice, he was a most accomplished person. He had an easy and flowing eloquence; which consisted not in a pomp and ostentation of words, but in a masculine plainness and significancy of sense. He was a master of prudence formed on experience, and regulated by temper and moderation. His loyalty was true, and would endure the test; and was only exceeded by his piety, which indeed was eminently great. To sum up all in a word, the queen was happy in so great a counsellor, and the state of England for ever indebted to him for his sage and prudent counsel. He was one who lived and died with equal glory; and while others regard him with admiration, I am rather inclined to contemplate him with the sacred applause of silent veneration."

WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

Born 1564. — Died 1616.*From 6th Elizabeth, to 10th James I.*

THOUGH the lives of poets in general are less instructive than their writings, and the eccentricities of genius frequently furnish as much to lament as to admire; yet there seems to be no just reason why the highest intellectual endowments, and the warmest poetic inspiration, should not be coupled with judgment and with prudence; and the union produce its natural fruits, — honour, independence, and happiness.

An illustrious proof of the most glowing energies of mind, connected with a general though not undeviating observance of those prudential maxims by which the mass of men direct their conduct, will be supplied by contemplating the life of Shakspeare; the immortal poet of nature, the glory of his country and his age.

Stratford-upon-Avon had the honour to produce this prodigy of dramatic genius; and, in consequence, will ever be hallowed as classic ground. His father was a considerable wool-stapler, and it appears that his connections in general ranked with the gentry of the place; but a large family of ten children, of whom our poet was the eldest, proved an incumbrance that must have been very sensibly felt. Consequently the education of young Shakspeare, though by no means neglected, was confined to what the grammar-school of his native town could supply. What progress he made there, what indications he gave of his future celebrity, are wholly unknown; but as genius is a gift of nature, and cannot be acquired, it is probable that he early "warbled his wood-notes wild," though unnoticed by the dim eye, and unheard by the dull ear of common men. The fancy of Shakspeare was unquestionably pluming its infant wing, even amidst the

most ordinary avocations; and his soul darting into distant scenes of glory and of fame, though the path was yet untraced by which he reached them.

After a few years of attendance on scholastic instruction, in which it is evident that he acquired a complete acquaintance with his native idiom, and was at least initiated into the Roman tongue, the slender finances of his father, and the want of assistance at home, occasioned his early application to business. To make him an accomplished scholar, seems to have been no part of his father's design; and it is now too late to discover whether the son showed any particular predilection to general study, or aversion to mercantile engagements.

It is certain that while he was still very young, he contracted a marriage with a lady of the name of Hathway, daughter of a substantial yeoman in the vicinity; and became a father, before he reached the age of maturity. Having taken upon him the charge of a family before it can be expected that his juvenile years could have taught him prudence, or given him any considerable experience in life, his behaviour in this important character was probably not marked with the requisite economy or attention. That he pursued his father's trade as the means of a subsistence, seems to be pretty well ascertained; but his success and reputation can only be judged from the incident which, however disgraceful in itself, necessarily gave a new direction to his talents, and thus fortunately called forth that latent spark of genius, which might otherwise have been smothered for ever.

There is a tradition that Shakspeare was of a very gay and convivial disposition; and if we reflect on the warmth of imagination which is so conspicuous in his compositions, we can have little reason to doubt the truth of this report. The same impetuosity and energy of mind which have rendered him the delight and admiration of all posterity, unquestionably displayed themselves, before he had reached the maturity of reason, in frolicsome excesses of conduct, and unguarded sallies of wit.

Without the society of one congenial soul to cherish his native genius, or draw forth its shining qualities, it is not to be wondered that he associated with the giddy and the thoughtless; and in the hilarity of his companions, forgot their grossness and their depravity. The fervid and aspiring mind can seldom repose in harmless inactivity: if its powers are not directed by patronage or example to some worthy object, they will probably become conspicuous only for more flagrant dereliction of established modes, and greater ingenuity in vicious refinements.

Shakspeare's associates were not only gay, but criminal. Sir Thomas Lucy, of Charlecot, near Stratford, whose descendants still support an honourable rank in life, had a deer-park, which was frequently robbed by these unruly youths. In whatever design our poet engaged, he was qualified to be a leader; and being detected in the depredations of his gang, he was prosecuted with some severity. Instead, however, of asking pardon for his offence, he heightened it by a most satirical ballad; which so provoked the knight, that he felt himself justified in giving a loose to the vengeance of the law; and Shakspeare was in consequence obliged to relinquish his business and his home, and to take shelter in London. This gentleman, who was thus the cause of his original disgrace, yet the accidental maker of his future fortune, he afterwards ridiculed, under the well-known character of Justice Shallow.

Being now cast on the wide world, with only wit for his portion, it was natural for him to turn his thoughts towards the stage, and to court the society of the players. By a fatality for which it is impossible to account, the same fortune that seemed to have shipwrecked all his hopes, carried him into a safe port to refit, and then launched him on his proper element. But the pace with which he mounted to eminence was slow. In those days, gentlemen commonly rode to the play; and it is said that he was at first glad to take care of their horses, during

the time of the performance; and that even in this humble station he soon became distinguished, and was enabled by the increase of his business to engage a number of boys as his assistants. By this means he got a little money; and having gradually insinuated himself into the favour of some of the players, he was found to possess such an admirable fund of wit and humour, that they readily incited him to make an attempt on the stage. His celebrity as an actor, however, was not great. It appears that he had only very subordinate characters assigned him; and that the most considerable one he ever performed, was the Ghost in his own play of Hamlet.

But though Nature did not form him to shine as a first-rate actor, she had moulded and endowed him for something far superior. Being now acquainted with the business of the theatre, he was animated with a desire of signalising himself as a writer; and that he did not mistake his genius, the concurring testimony of every judge, the plaudits of his contemporaries, and the still increasing admiration of mankind, incontestibly evince.

Though it is impossible to trace with precision his first essay, it appears that the *Midsummer-night's Dream* was one of his earliest productions, and *Twelfth Night* the last; all the thirty-five plays which have been ascribed to him, having made their appearance between the years 1589 and 1614. The number of editions which they have since passed through, and the pains which our ablest critics and commentators have taken to restore the genuine text, and to illustrate the most trivial obscurity of diction or of sentiment, prove how highly Shakspeare ranks as an English classic. Nor is his fame, indeed, confined to this island, or to those who are acquainted with our language; almost every nation of Europe has an opportunity of reading him in its own tongue; and his fame reaches to the utmost confines of the reign of taste, civilisation, and literature.

Though the genius of our great dramatic writer burst into a flame at once, it acquired new accessions of purity

and resplendency by habits of writing, and a longer intercourse with mankind. Possessing an almost intuitive knowledge of the characters of men; an imagination that ranged through all nature, selecting the sublime, the beautiful, and the agreeable; a judgment that inclined him to adopt plots which had already been found to please; and an uncommon fluency and vigour of expression; it cannot be wondered at that he gradually eclipsed all who had preceded him, and left his successors in despair of ever reaching his excellencies.

Queen Elizabeth, who possessed a real taste for literature herself, had several of his plays acted before her; and even first suggested the idea of continuing the character of Falstaff (which had already been twice introduced) through another play, that he might be represented in love. This hint Shakspeare adopted, and the *Merry Wives of Windsor* was the produce of his solicitude thus to gratify his sovereign.

To wit, fancy, and unbounded genius, Shakspeare added sweetness of disposition, and pleasantness of manners. He was the agreeable companion, and the valuable friend; and his demeanour being improved by an acquaintance with the finest models of his time, he was courted by the great, and honoured by the good.

Besides the royal patronage, the Earl of Southampton is known to have treated him with the most flattering distinction: and from this Mecenas he received some solid marks of favour, which gave a very high idea of the estimation in which the poet was held, and the munificence of his patron. A gift of one thousand pounds, to enable him to complete a desirable purchase, is a proof of liberality which is seldom equalled at the present day, by those who pretend to honour genius.

But, after all, it is to that part of Shakspeare's character in which his prudence and his love of independence are displayed, that the attention of young readers should be more particularly called. Having, by his writings, his interest in the theatre, and his own good conduct, acquired

a decent competence, he had the good sense to determine to enjoy it; and leaving at once the stage, on which he had raised his fortune, and the busy scene of the world, he retired to his native Stratford, and lived in a handsome house which he had purchased, endeared to his intimate friends, and respected by the gentlemen in the neighbourhood.

Whatever imprudences might be charged on his juvenile years, his mature and declining age atoned for them all. The commencement of his acquaintance with Ben Jonson shows his taste and his candour in a high degree, and exemplifies by a single stroke the prominent qualities of his heart. That learned and able dramatic writer had presented a play to the managers, who were on the point of returning it with an unfavourable answer; when Shakspeare luckily casting his eye upon it, had the penetration to discover its merit, and was generous enough to introduce Jonson and his writings to public notice and approbation.

After he had retired from the busier scenes of life, he wisely conformed to his situation; and instead of disgusting inferior minds by the claims of superiority, adapted himself to the level of common men. Among his particular acquaintances was an old gentleman named Combe; extremely opulent, avaricious, and usurious. In a free conversation, he desired our poet to write his epitaph, that he might know what his posthumous character would be. Shakspeare drew a ludicrous but severe picture, in four lines, the poignancy of which was never forgiven; and indeed a man less acquainted with life, than he who had traced all its mazes, might have known that often " 'tis the truth which gives offence."

Finding his health on the decline, Shakspeare made his will in the beginning of the year 1616; and having provided for his family, and left some memorials of his regard to his former associates of the stage, he departed this life in April of the same year; and was interred on the north side of the chancel, in the church of Stratford; where a

monument with his bust was erected to his memory, on which the following distich is inscribed :

Judicio Pylum, genio Socratem, arte Maronem ;
Terra tegit, populus mœret, Olympus habet.

On the slab which covers his remains are these lines, generally believed to be written by himself :

Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear
To dig the dust enclosed here.
Blest be the man that spares these stones ;
And curst be he that moves my bones !

A studious life seldom presents many memorable incidents ; and of the private habits of Shakspeare in particular, very little is handed down to posterity. He met indeed with few vicissitudes : a single accident forced him to become the architect of his own fortune ; by gradual efforts he rose to eminence of fame, and competency of fortune ; and no sooner had he acquired these, than he wisely retired to the tranquil enjoyment of what his genius and his industry had earned. Hence few occurrences swell the annals of his peaceful days.

Shakspeare left two daughters, but his family became extinct in the third generation. Some collateral descendants still, or did lately, remain at Stratford ; and as may be justly imagined, not a little proud of such an illustrious kinsman. His mulberry-tree and chair were long the objects of veneration, and were visited by his admirers as the most precious relics : but even these have now disappeared ; and his tomb alone remains, where admirers can pay the homage of a tear.

As a dramatic writer, in which point of view he concentrates universal regard, his character has been often drawn ; but by none with such vigour and justness as by Dr. Johnson, whose sentiments may be adopted without limitation or reserve. They bear the stamp of truth, and carry conviction to the heart. " Shakspeare," he says, " is above all writers, at least above all modern writers,

the poet of nature ; the poet that holds up to his readers a faithful mirror of manners and of life. His characters are not modified by the customs of particular places, unpractised by the rest of the world ; by the peculiarities of studies or professions which can operate but upon small numbers ; or by the accident of transient fashions, or temporary opinions : they are the genuine progeny of common humanity ; such as the world will always supply, and observation will always find. His persons act and speak by the influence of those general passions and principles by which all minds are agitated, and the whole system of life is continued in motion. In the writings of other poets, a character is too often an individual ; in those of Shakspeare, it is commonly a species.

“ It is from this wide extension of design, that so much instruction is derived. It is this which fills the plays of Shakspeare with practical axioms and domestic wisdom. It was said of Euripides, that every verse was a precept ; and it may be said of Shakspeare, that from his works may be collected a system of civil and economical prudence. Yet his real power is not shown in the splendour of particular passages, but by the progress of his fable, and the tenor of his dialogue ; and he that tries to recommend him by select quotations, will succeed like the pedant in Hierocles, who, when he offered his house to sale, carried a brick in his pocket as a specimen. Upon every other stage the universal agent is love ; by whose power all good and evil is distributed, and every action quickened or retarded. But love is only one of many passions ; and as it has no great influence upon the sum of life, it has little operation in the dramas of a poet who caught his ideas from the living world, and exhibited only what he saw before him. He knew that any other passion, as it was regular or exorbitant, was a cause of happiness or calamity.

“ Characters thus ample and general were not easily discriminated and preserved ; yet, perhaps, no poet ever kept his personages more distinct from each other.

“ Other dramatists can only gain attention by hyperbolical or aggravated characters, by fabulous and unexampled excellence or depravity, as the writers of barbarous romance invigorated the reader by a giant and a dwarf ; and he that should form his expectations of human affairs from the play or from the tale, would be equally deceived. Shakspeare has no heroes : his scenes are occupied only by men, who act and speak as the reader thinks that he should himself have spoken or acted on the same occasion ; even where the agency is supernatural, the dialogue is level with life. Other writers disguise the most natural passions, and most frequent incidents ; so that he who contemplates them in the book, will not know them in the world. Shakspeare approximates the remote, and familiarizes the wonderful : the event which he represents will not happen ; but if it were possible, its effects would probably be such as he has assigned : and it may be said that he has not only shown human nature as it acts in real exigencies, but as it would be found in trials to which it cannot be exposed.

“ This therefore is the praise of Shakspeare : that his drama is the mirror of life ; that he who has mazed his imagination in following the phantoms which other writers raise before him, may here be cured of his delirious ecstasies, by reading human sentiments in human language ; by scenes from which a hermit may estimate the transactions of the world, and a confessor predict the progress of the passions.”

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

Born 1552. — Beheaded 1618.

From 5th Edward VI. to 15th James I.

————— Who can speak
 The numerous worthies of the maiden-reign ?
 In RALEIGH mark their every glory mixed :
 RALEIGH, the scourge of Spain ! whose breast with all
 The sage, the patriot, and the hero burn'd.
 Nor sunk his vigour when a coward-reign
 The warrior fetter'd, and at last resign'd
 To glut the vengeance of a vanquish'd foe.
 Then active still and unrestrain'd, his mind
 Explor'd the vast extent of ages past,
 And with his prison-hours enriched the world ;
 Yet found no times, in all the long research,
 So glorious or so base as those he prov'd,
 In which he conquer'd and in which he bled. THOMSON.

THIS immortal ornament of his country, whose brief character is so well delineated by the poet in the above passage, was descended from an ancient and respectable family in Devon, and born at Budley, in the same county. Though he occupies such an ample and honourable space in the British annals, yet no incidents of his early days have been transmitted to an admiring posterity. It may, however, evince the maturity of its parts, that he had acquired a sufficient stock of grammatical learning by the time of completing his fourteenth year ; when he was removed to the university of Oxford, and entered a gentleman-commoner of Oriel college. In this situation, it was not long before he distinguished himself by the strength and vivacity of his genius, and his uncommon progress in academical learning. But though qualified to shine in the schools, the bent of his disposition led him to more active pursuits ; and when he was no more than seventeen years old, he enlisted in a corps of gentlemen-volunteers des-

tined to recruit the Hugonot army in France, and commanded by the gallant Coligny. Here he not only initiated himself in the art of war, but acquired a knowledge of the fashionable modern languages; and after six years spent on the continent, returned to London with every accomplishment that adorns the character of a gentleman.

He now took up his residence in the Middle Temple; but the Muses here engrossed all his attention. Still, however, intent on military glory, he embraced the first opportunity which presented itself of resuming the profession of arms; and after the lapse of three years, joined the prince of Orange, who was then fighting against the Spaniards. The following year, he attended his half-brother, sir Humphrey Gilbert, on an unsuccessful expedition to the northern parts of America; and in 1580 appears serving as a captain against the rebellious Irish; where he quickly made himself conspicuous by his intrepid spirit, his generous humanity, and his presence of mind in the greatest dangers. In a word, so eminent were his abilities and services, that he received a grant from the crown of a large estate in that kingdom; but was prevented from rising in his profession by an unhappy misunderstanding between him and the lord-lieutenant, which was at last heard and adjusted before the privy-council. On this occasion, Raleigh defended his cause with such eloquence and address, that what was likely to ruin his interest, proved the very means of recommending him to the notice of the court. A contest with a superior, however just, seldom fails to bring obloquy and disgrace; but in the case of Raleigh, fortune determined otherwise. He only wanted a proper theatre on which to display his abilities: he gained that of a court, and succeeded.

But the smiles of ministers were not sufficient to satisfy his soaring ambition. He aspired to the favour of his sovereign; and it was not long before fortune essentially befriended him in this respect. The queen, taking the air, happened to come to a miry place, and was hesitating whether she should proceed or no: when Raleigh, who

probably was on the watch to win a smile of royal regard, immediately divested himself of a handsome plush cloak, and spread it on the ground; and the queen, gently treading on it, passed over safe and clean. So much gallantry from a man whose address, person, and wit, were alike calculated to strike, could scarcely fail to make an impression on Elizabeth. With a vanity natural to women, she construed every compliment into a proof of partial affection; and by converting her courtiers into lovers, she was served with a zeal and fidelity which neither rank, power, nor munificence, could singly, or even collectively, have otherwise won.

Soon after this adventure, Raleigh appeared at court; and meeting with a reception which seemed to flatter his hopes, as a further exposition of his mind he wrote with a diamond on a pane of glass, the following line:

“ Fain would I climb, yet fear I to fall; ”

which Elizabeth elegantly converted into a couplet, by adding,

“ If thy heart fail thee, climb not at all.”

Raleigh was too quick of apprehension not to interpret this poetic challenge. He saw it was his own fault if he did not rise; and after obtaining a proper introduction, his own merit was sufficient to accomplish the rest.

But no court favour, no employment where he could have rivals in his fame, was adapted to the aspiring genius of Raleigh. Even the bounds of Europe were too limited for his capacious mind. He longed to signalise himself by discoveries in the New World; — the common field where daring spirits at that time displayed their talents, or sought their fortune. Accordingly he made several voyages to the continent of America; where he settled a colony named Virginia, in honour of his virgin mistress. The chief produce of this province being tobacco, Raleigh was studious to introduce it as a luxury; while Elizabeth patronized its use as an article of commerce. To him too

we are indebted for the most valuable root which providence, in its bounty, has bestowed on man : the potatoe was one fruit of his discoveries in this track, though it does not appear that he was at first acquainted with its real value. It is generally believed, that being obliged to touch on the coast of Ireland, in one of his homeward-bound voyages, he left some of the roots there : which, being cultivated with success, by degrees spread over the three kingdoms ; and now constitute a principal relief to the poor, and a most agreeable luxury to the rich.

But though Raleigh was at great pains to colonise Virginia, the settlement was afterwards abandoned ; and it was not difficult to discover the cause : Virginia afforded no means of immediate profit or emolument to government, and therefore was finally neglected. This gave Raleigh the idea of settling a new colony in another part of America ; which might at once be productive of advantage, and enable his countrymen to transfer the richest products of America to England, if they possessed sufficient courage to embark in the design.

To accomplish this magnificent purpose, he made the most minute inquiries into the state of Guiana. From books and papers he drew all the assistance that could be procured of this nature, and from personal information he derived much more. But for the knowledge that he acquired, he was still more indebted to the vast stores of his own mind, to a profound judgment and a penetrating observation.

Raleigh, however, was not one of those superficial adventurers who strike out a plan with crude and eager zeal, and then immediately pursue it with blind impetuosity. He knew the necessity of caution in an affair of such importance : and therefore dispatched an officer of approved skill and fidelity, to examine the coast ; that, after his information was as complete as the nature of things would allow, he might erect a superstructure of his design on a solid basis.

But though Raleigh seemed most in his element, when

in the prosecution of some distant object, he was not an inattentive observer of domestic concerns; and a man of his talents could not be useless or unemployed on any stage. He exerted himself in parliament, as knight of the shire for his native county: he had a distinguished share in almost every expedition or feat of arms, during the greater part of the reign of Elizabeth; and while the colonisation of Virginia was the principal object of his attention, he received the honour of knighthood from his wise and politic mistress, who was as frugal of the honours which she bestowed, as careful of her treasury.

His influence with the queen at last rose to such a pitch, as to excite the jealousy of less favoured courtiers; and his enemies employed every artifice to undermine him. To the clergy he had given offence by some free notions in religion: yet if we may judge from his works, no man had juster ideas, and a more awful sense of the divine nature and perfections, or a firmer belief in Revelation. So dangerous is it, however, to oppose popular prejudices, that while he strove to exalt religion by attacking the old school of divinity, he was accused of infidelity itself.

The queen disregarded the malice of Raleigh's adversaries, and saw through their insidious designs to lessen him in her esteem; but what his most bitter enemies could not effect, his own imprudence nearly accomplished.

Among the maids of honour to the queen, was a daughter of sir Nicholas Throgmorton. With this lady, sir Walter Raleigh carried on a love affair; which being discovered by its natural consequences, she was dismissed from her attendance at court, and he was put under confinement for several months. In the mind of Elizabeth, a secret amour, particularly with a lady of the court, was considered as highly criminal; but Raleigh made the most honourable reparation by marriage, and they long lived patterns of conjugal fidelity and affection.

By this temporary loss of the queen's regard, our intrepid

adventurer was rendered more desirous of carrying into effect his long meditated expedition to Guiana, in hopes that his success might restore him to the favour of his sovereign. Accordingly he set sail from Plymouth with a small squadron, on the 6th of February 1595; and after a propitious voyage, arrived at the isle of Trinidad; where he took the city of St. Joseph, together with the Spanish governor. He then sailed four hundred miles up the Oroonoko in little barks; opened a friendly intercourse with the natives; and obtained certain indications of gold-mines, but was not furnished with instruments for working them.

Having extensively surveyed the banks of this beautiful river, he at last came to cataracts which impeded his farther progress: and the rain falling in such torrents, that it frequently penetrated ten times a day to the skin, it was judged expedient to make for the ships; which was effected with the most persevering labour in spite of multiplied difficulties.

The ore, the fossils, and the plates of gold, which sir Walter Raleigh brought to England, considerably roused the attention of the nation, and the general voice would have favoured a prosecution of his discoveries; but his enemies, stung with jealousy at what he had achieved, threw out the most invidious insinuations against his patriotism and veracity; and thus sacrificed the honour and the interest of the country to their own private animosity and revenge.

The queen, too, harassed by the conspiracy, or rather frenzy of the earl of Essex, had little leisure and less inclination to engage in distant schemes of glory. She, however, became perfectly reconciled to sir Walter; and during the remainder of her reign, he basked in the sunshine of deserved favour, but all his prospects were eclipsed by her death.

On the accession of James the First he experienced indeed a short gleam of royal favour; but the characters of the prince and the subject were so opposite, that it was

impossible for their good understanding to be permanent. Swayed by maxima of honour, Raleigh submitted not without declared aversion to the ascendancy which strangers acquired, in prejudice to his native country; and animated with the love of military glory, he could not help despising the pusillanimous conduct of James. He was likewise imprudently drawn in to join a sinking party; which his good sense might have told him could only operate his own ruin, without any probable advantage to his country. In consequence of this he was stripped of all the offices which he so honourably held under Elizabeth; and was soon after committed to the Tower on an alleged charge of treason, in plotting against the king, and carrying on a secret correspondence with Spain, to which nation he had in fact ever shown the most inveterate hostility.

The crown-lawyers, to whom his inflexible integrity made him obnoxious, carried on the prosecution with the most rancorous virulence. The great sir Edward Coke forgot the dignity of a judge in his invectives against him; and "traitor, monster, viper, and spider of hell," were some of the opprobrious titles which this rude calumniator bestowed on Raleigh. In a word, the government was determined to convict him, not only without evidence, but against it; and though it seemed to hesitate at legalised murder, it kept him a close prisoner for the long period of twelve years.

Such ill-requited services, and such severity, would have broken the mind of any other person than Raleigh: but he, superior to the malice of his foes, and panting with a generous ardour for immortal fame, employed his pen to illuminate a thankless age; and among other works, produced in the Tower his well-known and much admired *History of the World*.

What means he took to mitigate the prejudices of James, cannot now be ascertained with precision. It is very probable that the application of a bribe to some of the sycophant courtiers, had considerable influence upon them;

and the sovereign himself, by his criminal profusion, being in want of fresh supplies, no doubt listened with avidity to a man who fancied that gold-mines were within his reach, whenever he was permitted to proceed in quest of them.

In 1616 he procured his liberation, and soon after received a royal commission to go and explore the mines of Guiana. It was not, however, till July in the next year, that he was ready to sail; in consequence of which delay, his designs were betrayed to the Spaniards, and all his plans rendered unsuccessful.

In his course he touched at the Canaries, with an intention of landing; but the Spaniards, being prepared, opposed him with such vigour, that he was glad to stipulate for necessary supplies, on the best terms by which he could procure them.

He now proceeded to his destination; and, reaching Guiana, was received by the Indians with the most flattering homage and attention. So prepossessing were his manners, that wherever he went, his favourable reception was insured; and wherever he had once visited, he was sure to be welcomed again. The kindness and respect which he experienced from these friendly people, he very modestly mentioned in his dispatches sent home: for in sir Walter Raleigh, modesty was blended with the choicest gifts of nature; with superior capacity, heroic resolution, and genuine magnanimity.

Falling into an indisposition, he was obliged to intrust the command of an expedition up the Oroonoko in quest of a gold mine, of which he had received notice in his former voyage, to Kemys, one of his captains, and to his eldest son, captain Walter Raleigh. Deviating from the prudent instructions which had been given them, they fell into an ambuscade: and after doing considerable damage to the Spaniards, at St. Thome, were obliged to retire without reaching the mine which had been the grand object of their enterprise.

Young Raleigh fell in this affair, while he was performing

prodigies of valour, and proving himself the legitimate son of such a father. On receiving the melancholy news of the death of his beloved son, sir Walter felt all the bitterness of grief. The most tender sensibility is not incompatible with the highest degrees of courage. But sir Walter had not only a domestic and irretrievable calamity to lament : he was frustrated in all his hopes from this expedition ; and he reproached Kemys, in the anguish of his heart, for neglecting his instructions to procure some of the gold ore ; which would have preserved his character, and allayed the popular discontent at home. Kemys, unable to brook disappointment and blame, sacrificed himself as an expiation for his misconduct, and thus proved that he wanted true magnanimity ; for to part with life rashly is real cowardice, but to bear its accumulated ills without despondency, is an effect of the most exalted courage.

A council of officers being summoned, the prevailing wish was an instant return to England. Raleigh found it in vain to oppose the general sentiment ; and indeed the Spaniards seemed to be now so well on their guard, that success in the attempt was more than problematical. He therefore yielded to the current of opinion ; and about the end of July 1618, landed at Plymouth, worn out with illness and vexation.

To give the last stroke to his calamities, he was informed here, that the king had published a proclamation requiring him and his officers to appear before the privy-council, to answer for their conduct at St. Thome. This was done at the instigation of Gondamar, the Spanish ambassador ; who thirsted for the blood of Raleigh, in revenge for the long series of injuries which he had done the Spanish nation : and James had neither the honour nor the courage to protect a man who was one of the most distinguished ornaments of his age, and will be the admiration of all posterity. He was speedily arrested, and committed prisoner to his own house in London ; but, foreseeing the event, he endeavoured to escape. He had only reached

Greenwich, however, before he was seized : and being committed to the Tower, in mockery of all justice, and to the eternal infamy of this reign, on the 28th of October following, was brought into the court of King's Bench ; when the record of his former sentence being read, after the lapse of so many years, he was sentenced on that to die ; and the next morning was beheaded in Old Palace-yard, in the sixty-ninth year of his age.

— On the scaffold he behaved like a hero and a Christian. He vindicated his conduct in a most pathetic and eloquent speech ; and then, feeling the edge of the fatal instrument of death, observed with a smile, “ It is a sharp medicine, but a sure remedy for all woes.” Being asked which way he would lay himself on the block, he replied, “ So the heart be right, it is no matter which way the head lies.” After this, composing himself as if he had been going to rest, his head was severed from his body at two blows. The former was long preserved by his widow as a precious relic of affection ; the latter was interred in the chancel of St. Margaret's church, Westminster.

The cruelty and flagrant injustice of this execution astonished all Europe ; and its history will for ever be read with execration by Englishmen.

In person, sir Walter Raleigh was tall, well-shaped, and strong. His hair was of a dark colour and full ; and his features, and the contour of his face, such as were formed to inspire respect. He was magnificent in his dress ; but this point had the least share of his attention. In his character he united almost every great quality, that can deserve the veneration of mankind. As a soldier, a statesman, and a scholar, he might have rivalled the most eminent personages of ancient or modern times. He was not only learned himself, but the patron of learning. To him we are indebted for Spenser, the poet of fancy ; whom he introduced from Ireland, and whose fame will be eternal, like his own. In short, in whatever situation Raleigh appeared, his character was illustrious

and great ; and he seemed to live for his country rather than for himself.

His widow and children met with the basest ingratitude and ill usage, from the same pusillanimous court which had taken off the husband and the father ; and which thus aggravated and perpetuated the infamy that time might have softened, or its own compunction have partly effaced.

None can read the life of sir Walter Raleigh without being impressed with the truth of this maxim ; “ that ambition, however honourably displayed, is seldom the path that conducts to private felicity.”

FRANCIS BACON ;

VISCOUNT ST. ALBANS, BARON OF VERULAM, AND LORD
HIGH CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND.

Born 1561. — Died 1626.

From 3d Elizabeth to 2d Charles I.

OF this immortal honour to literature and his country, it is impossible to speak without enthusiasm in contemplating his genius, or without pity in viewing his weaknesses. Pope characterises him, as

The wisest, brightest, meanest, of mankind :

and a late writer, with as much elegance as propriety, calls him “ the prophet of those arts which Newton was afterwards to reveal.”

Francis Bacon was the son of sir Nicholas Bacon, lord-keeper in the reign of Elizabeth, and was born at York-house, in the Strand, January 22. 1561. His mother was Anne, daughter of sir Anthony Cooke ; a lady as illustrious for her classical attainments as for her domestic virtues.

So extraordinary were the presages of his future genius at a very early age, that queen Elizabeth distinguished him while still a child; and with peculiar pleasure heard his shrewd remarks, and drew out his pertinent replies. From the strength of his intellect and the prematurity of his understanding, she used to call him in pleasantry "her young lord-keeper." It is recorded of him, when a boy, that Elizabeth having one day asked his age, he instantly and handsomely replied, "that he was just two years younger than her majesty's happy reign."

His attainments in classical learning were rapid; and he was judged qualified for removal to the university, in the twelfth year of his age. Accordingly he was entered of Trinity college, Cambridge; where he made such incredible progress in his studies, that before the age of sixteen, he had run through the whole circle of the liberal arts as then taught; and even at this early period, he began to perceive those futilities and imperfections in the reigning philosophy, which for the service of learning and of mankind, he afterwards so effectually exposed and exploded.

Leaving the university with the highest reputation, he was sent on his travels, and warmly recommended to the English ambassador in France; whose esteem and confidence he so entirely gained, that he was intrusted with a secret commission to her majesty; which having discharged with prudence and dispatch, he resumed his observations abroad.

While engaged in every liberal pursuit, and combining a knowledge of the world with a knowledge of books and languages, his father suddenly died, without being able to make that provision for his son which he wished and intended. In consequence, the young philosopher was obliged to discontinue his travels; but not before he had acquired a deep and almost intuitive insight into the manners and customs of other countries, and the characters and views of their princes and ministers; which he exemplified

in a small work on the general state of Europe, published before he had attained his nineteenth year.

Being without a patrimony on which to depend, in order to procure a genteel subsistence, he entered himself of Gray's-inn. All the secrets of jurisprudence were speedily descried by this penetrating genius; and after receiving some honourable testimonies of approbation from the society to which he belonged, in being appointed their reader, at the age of twenty-eight, he was nominated counsel-extraordinary to the queen.

The celebrated and unfortunate earl of Essex, a man who loved and was capable of appreciating merit, had formed a close intimacy with Bacon, soon after his return from his travels; and made use of all his influence, but without effect, to obtain for him some professional appointment which would set him above dependence. To console his friend under his disappointment, (which was probably owing to his avowed patronage, as it rendered Bacon an object of suspicion to the other courtiers,) he generously presented him with Twickenham park and gardens; whither he frequently retired to indulge in learned ease, and in some of the most sublime speculations that could engage the mind of man.

Our early connections frequently influence our latest hour; and therefore the utmost caution should be used in forming them. If the patron to whom we attach ourselves possesses not the power, or wants the inclination, to advance our interest, what can be expected but indifference about our fortune from others? It is well indeed if it happens no worse; for frequently one faction tries to depress even the humblest adherent of another? It is impossible otherwise to account for the little preferment which a man of Bacon's acknowledged abilities received during the whole reign of Elizabeth, notwithstanding his near relationship to lord Burleigh, and the early prepossession of her majesty in his favour. Whenever friendship solicited a place for him, enmity or opposition interposed; and while those who entertained the latter

sentiments confessed his intellectual abilities, they represented him as a speculative man, who was more likely to perplex than to forward public business. Even Burleigh with great difficulty procured for him in reversion the office of register to the star-chamber, which was reckoned to be worth a thousand pounds a year ; but this place did not become vacant for him, till nearly twenty years afterwards.

Depressed by his narrow circumstances, enfeebled by too sedulous application to study, and conscious of merit which he found ineffectual to his elevation, both his health and his spirits forsook him ; and at one time he seems to have formed the resolution of bidding adieu to his country for ever. His friends, however, diverted him from this purpose ; and for a time ceasing to feel the impulse of ambition, he wrapped himself up in philosophical apathy, and planned those various works which throw unsullied rays of glory round his head.

But the desire of shining in public life, though dormant, was not extinct ; and it is painful to delineate its renewed emotions. Gratitude to a benefactor, though unfortunate, is a quality that reflects the highest honour on human nature. Bacon, though pure and correct in his study, seems to have entertained very loose principles of political attachment. When Essex fell, rather than resign the empty title of counsel-extraordinary to the queen, he officially pleaded against him ; and, as if this was not enough to show his ingratitude, he blackened the memory of his early patron, by the most illiberal and unjust accusations. Such baseness cannot be extenuated ; but it may be recorded as a warning to those who might be tempted to copy so infamous an example, that it wholly failed of the effect which he intended. The queen still retained too much affection for Essex to countenance his reviler and betrayer ; and the people, too generous to see a man who had once been their darling attacked, when he was incapable of defending himself, particularly by a friend, were exasperated against Bacon, and even threat-

ened his life. During the remainder of Elizabeth's reign, he was justly treated with neglect by all parties; perhaps with silent contempt for his prostituted services.

Another prospect opened on the accession of James; and Bacon, having had the address to ingratiate himself with the new favourites, was soon distinguished by his majesty, from whom he received the honour of knighthood, as the first pledge of royal regard. To have been overlooked by Elizabeth was in general a sufficient recommendation to James. He retained indeed some of her principal ministers out of policy or necessity; but his favourites were all of his own making or finding.

Sir Francis Bacon, being now firmly established at court, had only to recover his popularity. He whom a king distinguishes is sure to be honoured by one party at least. It had for some time been a matter of complaint, that the royal purveyors oppressed the people; and in the first session of parliament after James mounted the throne, a solemn representation of this grievance was agreed on in the house of commons; and sir Francis Bacon was delegated to lay it before the king. His success in this mission was so great, that he recovered the entire goodwill of the public, without lessening his interest with the sovereign. He was thanked by the house of commons; and the full tide of courtly favour and popular applause seemed now united, in wafting him to the haven of his wishes.

He was soon after appointed solicitor-general, an office which had long been the object of his ambition; and from that period, becoming a professed courtier, he strained every nerve, and debased every faculty of his exalted mind, in forwarding the favourite measures of the weak and timid James. Among these, the union of the two kingdoms was one that lay nearest his heart; but all the powers of argument, and all the eloquence of sir Francis Bacon, could not effect this design.

Being thus checked in his political career, he applied himself with more assiduity to the business of his profes-

sion ; and his reputation daily increasing, he soon monopolized the most lucrative and important causes at the bar. It is remarked of Bacon, that when he had no immediate view of preferment at court, he was a faithful and an active patriot ; and having on several occasions defended the liberties of the people with energy and effect, his deviations from that line of conduct were not too severely marked. Such indeed were his transcendent abilities, that he was now courted by all parties ; and love or fear kept them steady in his favour.

— Being appointed attorney-general, he honourably exerted himself to suppress the practice of duelling, the frequency of which had become disgraceful both to religion and government. A charge which he delivered on an occasion of this kind was so much admired, that it was ordered to be printed,

The private affairs of sir Francis Bacon being now in a most flourishing state ; and those courtiers who had so long opposed his promotion being either dead or removed, he saw Villiers, afterwards duke of Buckingham, rising towards the height of favour, bowed to his influence, and was taken into the intimate friendship of that minister. Yet in this connection he must be acquitted of any sinister ends, incompatible with his duty. He gave the most excellent advice to the new favourite for the regulation of his conduct ; and amidst all his political inconsistencies, seems, when not swayed by ambition or interest, to have felt warmly for the good of his country, and to have devoted his best talents to her service.

Having previously been sworn a privy-counsellor, on the resignation of lord-chancellor Egerton, sir Francis Bacon, who had always directed his view to this high office, was appointed to it, notwithstanding the powerful opposition of sir Edward Coke. But the latter was not of so flexible a disposition as Bacon ; and consequently was less qualified to please an arbitrary prince. With the dignity of chancellor he received a peerage, by the title

of baron of Verulam, and three years afterwards the superior distinction of viscount of St. Alban's.

Soon after lord Verulam had received the seals, the king set out for Scotland; and his lordship being then, in virtue of his office, at the head of the council, he felt all the difficulties of his situation. The treaty of marriage between Charles prince of Wales and the Infanta of Spain being brought forward, the chancellor, who saw the impolicy of this measure, strongly remonstrated against it both to the king and Buckingham; but he was overruled by obstinacy and folly, and at last the negotiation was broken off by the very means taken to effect it.

A matrimonial connection between the daughter of sir Edward Coke and the brother of the duke of Buckingham likewise gave him much solicitude, lest he should be supplanted by such an union of interest against him; and he opposed this match with more perseverance than decency, for which he incurred the slight resentment of his master. But the storm soon blew over, and lord Verulam triumphed over all competitors at court; at the same time that he was the object of just admiration, not only to his country but to Europe, for his successful studies. Amidst all the variety and intricacy of his pursuits as a lawyer and a statesman, philosophical research was evidently his ruling passion. "Alas!" exclaims a late writer, "that he who could command immortal fame, should have stooped to the little ambition of power!"

The instability of human grandeur has been ever proverbial. Scarcely had lord Verulam attained the summit of his wishes, before he was hurled from his station, with the loss of his reputation even for common honesty. James, having exhausted his finances, was obliged to call a parliament; and the nation being highly dissatisfied with the public conduct of Buckingham and the chancellor, a strict inquiry was instituted against them. The king would gladly have screened them both, by a stretch of his prerogative in dissolving the parliament; but he was obliged to temporize till he had obtained some supplies

from it ; and the chancellor, though certainly the greatest man and the least offender, was made the sacrifice to the other. To divert the commons from the prosecution of the favourite Buckingham, some monopolies and illegal patents were cancelled and recalled by proclamation : while lord Verulam was impeached of bribery and corruption in his character of chancellor ; and, meanly compromising his honour for a pension and a promised remission of the fine to be imposed, he complied with the wish of the court in yielding his right to speak in his own defence, and was condemned on a written confession. Every reader must blush for a man who could be made such a dupe, and who could consent to give up his honour to the insidious blandishments of a court. Buckingham escaped by this artifice ; but lord Verulam was sentenced to pay a fine of forty thousand pounds ; to be imprisoned in the Tower during the king's pleasure ; to be for ever incapable of any office, place, or emolument, in the state ; and never to sit again in parliament, or come within the verge of the court.

It is but justice, however, to the character of this eminent man, to observe, that he fell the martyr rather to his want of prudence than his want of integrity. Notwithstanding his extensive practice at the bar, and the high office of state which he had filled, his whole landed property did not exceed six hundred pounds a year ; and he was so far from having amassed money, that he was deeply involved in debt. Owing to his philosophic indifference about wealth, his great indulgence to his servants, and his total want of economy in the management of his domestic affairs, he had been grossly defrauded. In short, that bribery and corruption for which he was condemned, though he was extremely culpable in conniving at it, tended only to the advantage of his dependants. Few of the gifts came ultimately to his own coffers ; and so far was he from being influenced by them, that there was not a single instance in which his decisions were not guided

by strict equity; for not one of his decrees were reversed after his disgrace.

He seems himself to have been so sensible at last of his ill-judged lenity, that one day during his trial, on his domestics rising to do him honour as he passed through the apartment, he said; "Sit down, my masters; your rise has been my fall." He who is destitute of prudence, will soon be found or fancied deficient in every other virtue. Without economy, there can be no independence; and without independence, in vain shall we look for those qualities that form the ground of honourable character.

Conformably to the previous stipulation, lord Verulam's confinement was but short; his fine was remitted; a pension of eighteen hundred pounds a year was settled on him; and he was summoned to the first parliament of Charles the First, notwithstanding his sentence.

After his disgrace, however, he seems to have been perfectly cured of ambition; he withdrew to that literary ease and retirement for which nature had adapted him; and spent the last years of his life in the noblest studies that could engage the mind of man. While he was prosecuting some discoveries in experimental philosophy, near Highgate, he was suddenly taken ill; and being carried to the earl of Arundel's house in the neighbourhood, after a week's illness he breathed his last, on the 9th day of April, 1626. By his lady (a daughter of alderman Barnham of London), whom he married when near forty years of age, he left no issue: and his title, of course, became extinct. He was buried in St. Michael's church at St. Alban's, and for some time lay without a stone to mark his name; till the gratitude of sir Thomas Meautys, who had formerly been his secretary, erected the monument to a memory which can never die.

In person, lord Verulam was of the middling stature; his forehead, broad and open, was early stamped with the marks of age; his eyes were lively and penetrating; and his whole appearance was venerably pleasing.

So differently has his character been delineated, according to the different lights in which it has been viewed, that by some his real blemishes are wholly thrown into shade, and by others they are made to occupy the most prominent place on the canvass. His failings have been candidly represented in the above sketch, and his great and exalted qualities need not commendation here. He was undoubtedly impressed with a sense of his own illustrious attainments when he wrote this singular passage in his last will: "for my name and memory, I leave it to men's charitable speeches, and to foreign nations, and the next ages." And well might he make this appeal; for in general his faults, compared to his excellencies, were only like spots on the surface of the sun.

The account of this extraordinary genius cannot be better concluded than with a brief enumeration of his learned labours. His earliest philosophic production seems to have been the First Part of Essays; or Counsels, civil and moral. In this work, he lays down the useful principles of knowledge and prudence; and points out the means of obviating ills, and obtaining blessings.

Next appeared the introduction to his most capital performance, On the Proficiency and Advancement of Learning, divine and human. The general design of this treatise was to exhibit a concise view of the existing knowledge, under proper divisions, with hints to supply its deficiencies. After his seclusion from public business, this was very much enlarged, and turned into Latin; and properly constitutes the first part of his Grand Instauration of the Sciences.

In 1607 he published a treatise entitled *Cogitata et Visa*; which, as containing the plan of his *Novum Organum*, or second part of the Instauration of the Sciences, had been previously submitted to the most able literary friends, for their remarks and improvements.

Three years after was published his exquisite little work, *De Sapientia Veterum*; and few books met with a better reception, or acquired more general celebrity than this.

Lastly, in 1620, when in the zenith of his glory, he produced his most important philosophical work, under the appellation of the *Novum Organum Scientiarum*; which is properly a second part of his Grand Instauration of the Sciences, a performance which it would be idle to praise, and vain to depreciate.

His collected works were elegantly published in five volumes quarto in 1765.

LANCELOT ANDREWS,

BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

Born 1555. — Died 1626.

From 2nd Mary to 2nd Charles I.

THE life of a good man, whatever his station or his success may be, cannot be written without pleasure, nor read without improvement; but when we find the purest principles, the most extensive learning, and the utmost amenity of manners, reflecting lustre on preferment, the narrative becomes doubly interesting; and we delight in tracing by what progressive steps exalted merit has risen to a suitable reward.

This eminent divine, the contemporary and friend of lord Bacon, was the son of a mariner, who towards the decline of life was chosen master of the Trinity-house at Deptford. He was born in the parish of Allhallows, near Tower-hill; and having received the elements of education at the Coopers' free-school in Radcliff-highway, he was removed to Merchant-tailors' school, under the tuition of Mr. Mulcaster. His astonishing progress in the classics endeared him to his master; by whom he was recommended as a proper object to receive one of the scholarships, then lately founded at Pembroke College, Cambridge, by Dr. Watts, archdeacon of Middlesex.

Having in consequence been honoured with the first nomination, he pursued his studies with such assiduity, particularly in theology, and rendered himself so acceptable by his conduct, that he was soon chosen fellow of his college, and afterwards catechist. In this character he read lectures on the ten commandments; and as he possessed a graceful address, and fine elocution, his pulpit orations were much admired, and generally attended. His personal merits, and his growing reputation as a divine, soon reached the ears of the founder of Jesus College, Oxford; who, without his knowledge, complimented him with one of the first fellowships in that new society.

Of his habits and manners, which sometimes show the heart more explicitly than the most important actions, some pleasing details have been recorded. His filial affection (a virtue without which no one can be reckoned truly good or great) was so strong, that after he had been initiated at the university, he never failed to visit his parents in London on all proper occasions, during his residence both at Cambridge and Oxford; and that he might fill up those intervals, so dear to every feeling mind, with advantage, he took care to be provided with a private tutor, to instruct him in such branches of learning as were not usually taught in the universities. By this means, within a few years he acquired a prodigious fund of knowledge, to which he added an acquaintance with modern languages.

His journeys to town he constantly performed on foot, till he had attained such a rank in the university, that he feared his love of this exercise would be ascribed to parsimony. Yet walking still continued to be his favourite amusement, and he rationally preferred it to all others; declaring that the contemplation of nature, and the examination of its various productions, were to him the most exquisite of all entertainments.

The common recreations of volatile youth, the games invented to kill time without improvement, he never en-

joyed ; but sought for higher gratification in science and meditation.

Such was his reputation, that he never had occasion to seek a patron ; and thus happily never knew the anguish of hope deferred, nor the misery of expectation and dependence. Henry earl of Huntingdon, lord president of the North, without solicitation appointed him his chaplain ; and he accompanied this nobleman in his progress through that part of the kingdom, where he converted many from popery by his preaching, and more by his private exhortations.

Such zeal and success recommended him to sir Francis Walsingham, secretary of state ; who, rightly judging that his abilities would be more useful as the stage was wider on which they were displayed, first procured him the vicarage of St. Giles's, Cripplegate, and in a short time after a residentiaryship of St. Paul's, with a prebend in the collegiate church of Southwell.

Thus preferred, probably beyond his hopes, he redoubled his diligence as a preacher, till he was promoted to the mastership of Pembroke-hall, to which he afterwards became a generous benefactor. His next preferment was that of chaplain-in-ordinary to queen Elizabeth ; who, being charmed with the style of his sermons, made him dean of Westminster in 1601.

After the death of his royal patroness, he had the good fortune to be held in equal estimation by her successor, James ; who, conscious of his talents, prompted him to write an answer to cardinal Bellarmine, who had virulently attacked his majesty's book, entitled *The Defence of the Right of Kings*. The doctrines of James were certainly most inimical to the catholic interest ; and Bellarmine, under the signature of Matthew Tortus, endeavoured to refute them. Dean Andrews, wittily playing on the adopted name, entitled his reply *Tortura Torti*, or *The Torture of Tortus* ; and so far succeeded in supporting his master's cause, that he was rewarded with the bishopric of Chichester. But independently of his

merit in this particular service, never did man better deserve the mitre. As a further token of royal munificence and regard, he was likewise made lord-almoner; in which office he showed the purest disinterestedness, even so far as to sacrifice his legal and undoubted rights.

It was not long before the king had an opportunity of conferring a fresh reward upon this learned and pious prelate. On the vacancy of the see of Ely, he was translated thither in 1609; and the same year he was sworn a privy-counsellor both of England and Scotland.

After discharging the duties of his bishopric at Ely for nine years with the most conscientious attention, he was promoted without solicitation to the valuable see of Winchester, and appointed dean of the chapel-royal. To the honour of bishop Andrews it ought to be mentioned, that though a privy-counsellor in times of considerable difficulty and danger; when arbitrary principles were little disguised, and the royal prerogative was stretched to the utmost, he never sunk his dignity by base compliances, nor irritated by useless opposition. Wisely placing his honour and his duty in the faithful discharge of his pastoral office, he avoided the entanglements of temporal affairs, and attached universal respect to his character. The following anecdote, which is well authenticated, is a proof at once of the integrity of his principles and the promptness of his wit. — One day, while James was at dinner, immediately after dissolving the parliament, he was standing with Niele, bishop of Durham, behind the king's chair. In the course of conversation, his majesty asked the two prelates if he was not authorised to take whatever money he wanted from his subjects, without the formality of a parliament. The sycophant Niele readily exclaimed, "God forbid, sir, but you should! you are the breath of our nostrils." The king then turned to Andrews, and said, "Well, my lord, what say you?" "Sir," replied he, "I have no skill to judge in parliamentary cases." On this the king hastily added, "No put off, my lord; answer me instantly." "Then, sir,"

said he, "I think it lawful for you to take my brother Niele's money, for he offers it." This shrewd evasion of a very delicate question amused the company extremely: even James affected to be pleased with its humorous turn, and probably in his own breast entertained a much more exalted idea of Andrews than of Niele.

After enjoying a very rare felicity in the singular esteem of three successive sovereigns, the friendship of the learned and the great, and the veneration of the good, during a long and tranquil life uniformly devoted to the cause of piety and virtue, this illustrious prelate was called from this world to a better in 1626. He died at Winchester-house, Southwark, and was interred in the church of St. Saviour; where a handsome monument of marble and alabaster, with an elegant Latin inscription, was erected to his memory. His loss was lamented by the pious, and his virtues were embalmed by the learned. Among others, the immortal Milton, then about seventeen years of age, honoured him with a beautiful Latin elegy, one of the first productions of his muse.

After having run through the public scenes of bishop Andrews's life, it is a pleasure to revert to his private virtues. So truly amiable was his character as a prelate and as a man, that it furnishes both an example and incentive to excellence; and ought not to be dismissed with indifference. His contemporaries have decorated his hearse with unfading flowers; and it is impossible to render a more valuable service to those who have yet their course to run, than to select some of their choicest sweets. In bishop Andrews they have a pattern worthy of their love and esteem.

Though cheerful in his disposition, there was such a tempered gravity in his manner as checked the sallies of indecent levity. According to Fuller, James himself, who was much inclined to buffoonery, seemed to feel some awe and veneration in the presence of bishop Andrews. "Had he lived among the primitive bishops of the church," says one of his biographers, "his virtues

would have shined even among those virtuous men." In short, to him might be applied what was sometimes said of Claudius Drusus; "that he possessed as many and as great virtues as mortal nature could receive, or industry rear to perfection."

As a diocesan, he was remarkably careful to promote men of learning and virtue. He invited unbeneficed clergymen of reputed merit to visit him; defrayed the expenses of their journey; and if, on conversation with them, they were found worthy of his patronage, he preferred them as his livings became vacant. Thus seeing with his own eyes, and hearing with his own ears, he suffered no intrigues to impede the rise of worth, no recommendations to bias his judgment in favour of ignorance and irreligion.

As it pleased Providence to increase his fortune, his charity and liberality rose in the same proportion. He took particular delight in liberating those who had the misfortune to be confined for small debts; — a charity of the most beneficial kind to society as well as to individuals. Wherever his bounty could be privately applied, none but the immediate agent was sensible of the benefactor: the vouchers which he required for the faithful discharge of the trust were indeed to be signed by the person relieved; but the sympathising friend was unknown. In an age when it is much to be feared that charity is frequently the result of ostentation rather than of principle, it cannot be expected that bishop Andrews will find many imitators; yet the precedent is worthy of commemoration and applause.

Another quality for which he was illustrious was gratitude. As perfection is unattainable by humanity, some blemishes of one kind or other will adhere even to the best of men; but where gratitude is wanting, the heart itself is depraved. So warm was our prelate's sense of this virtue, that when he had it in his power, he not only remunerated those who had shown him kindness in his unprotected years, but extended his care to their relations.

For the son of his first schoolmaster he liberally provided; and such was his personal esteem for Mr. Mulcaster, under whom he had studied at Merchant-tailors', that he always placed him at the head of his table while he lived, and hung his picture in the most conspicuous part of his study when he was dead. Other attestations to his grateful remembrance of favours might be produced; but these are sufficient to evince his prevailing character.

As a scholar, his reputation was very high indeed. He is said to have understood at least fifteen languages; and his fame was not confined to this island, but extended to most parts of Europe. His literary correspondence was very extensive. Casaubon bears testimony to his universal erudition, and Spanheim and Vossius are eloquent in his praise. Yet it must be confessed that his compositions were vitiated by the bad taste of the times. They were full of pun and wit, and scraps of Greek and Latin; and though they all display the goodness of his heart, and his extensive learning, they must now be read rather for improvement than for pleasure. This prelate had a considerable share in that translation of the Bible, which is now in use.

SIR EDWARD COKE,

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF ENGLAND.

Born 1550. — Died 1634.

From 3d Edward VI. to 9th Charles I.

OF all the professions, that of jurisprudence affords the fairest and most promising field for the exercise of abilities. The divine, with very slender pretensions to talents, may rise on the props of patronage or connections; the physician is often more indebted for success to his address than his skill; but neither patronage, connections, nor address, can make a man an able lawyer or an eloquent

pleader. In this profession there must be intrinsic merit: which at last will surmount all difficulties; and, trusting to itself alone, will, if at all called into action, command that attention which the generality of men are obliged to court. It is not therefore to be wondered at that there should be so many candidates for the honours of the bar; and that, from among so many competitors, there should be some splendid instances of successful labours.

Among those whose legal attainments acquired them honour and opulence alive, and whose works instruct when dead, sir Edward Coke holds an elevated place. This luminary of the law was the son of Robert Coke, esq. of Mileham, in the county of Norfolk. After a slight domestic education, he was sent to the grammar-school of Norwich, when ten years old; and in due time removed to Trinity College, Cambridge.

What early evidences he gave of genius or application, at school or college, are not related. Our juvenile years commonly pass away unrecorded, and are soon forgotten. Talents are developed at very uncertain periods; the sprightly boy does not always turn out the man of abilities, nor does the backward genius of youth always characterise maturer years.

It seems that Coke was originally destined for the law; for after five years study at Cambridge, he was entered of Clifford's-inn; and the first incident that brought him into any notice was the precision with which he stated the case of the cook belonging to the house, and the shrewdness with which he pleaded it.

It has been remarked on other occasions, that the fortunes of men frequently turn on slight and fortuitous circumstances, which no foresight can anticipate, no prudence can forward or retard. When the young lawyer was defending the cause of the cook, he probably little thought that such an insignificant introduction would be the basis of his future fame: yet in consequence of the admiration which he excited on this occasion, he was called to the bar earlier than had been usual: and

according to his own reports, in Trinity term, 1578, he defended a clergyman in Norfolk, in an action of *scandalum magnatum*, brought against him by Henry lord Cromwell.

About this time he was appointed reader of Lyons-inn, and his lectures increased his reputation. By rapid degrees he acquired such extensive practice, and was considered as such a rising character, that after being seven years at the bar, he married an heiress of the ancient and honourable family of Paston, with whom he had a portion of thirty thousand pounds.

By this marriage he became allied to some of the noblest houses in the kingdom; and honours and emoluments began to be showered upon him abundantly. He was chosen recorder of Coventry and Norwich, obtained the patronage of lord Burleigh, and was frequently consulted on political as well as judicial affairs. Being returned to parliament by his native county of Norfolk, he was first appointed queen's solicitor, and soon after chosen speaker of the house of commons. In 1592, he became attorney-general; and by this step, his rise to the summit of his profession was in a manner ensured. The only important business, however, in which he was employed in his new station during the reign of Elizabeth, was the trial of the earl of Essex, against whom he pleaded with peculiar acrimony.

Being left a widower with ten children, he turned his thoughts to another match of great fortune, and still greater connections. This was the relict of sir William Hatton, and sister to lord Burleigh. But this marriage, however it might aggrandize him, was fatal to his domestic felicity. Their discordant tempers were the source of mutual misery; and after many bickerings and partial separations, king James was obliged to become a mediator between them. But no authority can awaken the passion of love, or resume its extinguished flame; they lived but to curse their destiny; and the lawyer sought solace in

business and ambition, instead of those sweeter comforts, which a happy home can impart.

In May, 1603, he was knighted by king James ; and in the same year conducted the trial of the brave but unfortunate sir Walter Raleigh, with such asperity and insolence, such scurrility and cruelty, as greatly lessened the respect of the public for his character. However, he gained credit by his sagacity in unravelling that dark and vindictive conspiracy, the gunpowder plot ; and on the trial of the conspirators, gave the most unequivocal proofs of extensive capacity, acute penetration, and solid judgment. Soon after, he was appointed lord chief justice of the common pleas, on which occasion he took for his motto the significant and appropriate words, *Lex est tutissima cassis*, "The law is the safest helmet." Having held this post with high reputation for seven years, he was promoted to be lord chief justice of the king's bench, and sworn a privy-counsellor.

Two years afterwards, when Egerton lord Ellesmere vacated the place of lord high chancellor, his majesty was at a loss to determine on a successor, and seems to have thought of sir Edward Coke : but the intrigues of Bacon and others prevailed ; for the lord chief justice, though the greatest lawyer, was far from being the best politician. Bacon, taking advantage of the inflexible character of his rival, painted his own more compliant disposition in such colours as suited the humour and the principles of James, and in consequence he bore away the prize. Between Coke and Bacon there appears to have been not only an emulation for rank and distinction, but a personal animosity, which death only could extinguish. Bacon perhaps envied that legal superiority which Coke was generally allowed to possess ; and Coke beheld with indignation and despair that universality of genius in Bacon, which defied all competition, and gained him the highest admiration of mankind.

Though sir Edward Coke had in the situation of attorney-general, and with prospects of higher preferment

before him, stretched the prerogative in some cases too far ; yet no sooner was he elevated to the chief bench of justice, than he seems to have determined to maintain the integrity and independence of his post. He gave public notice how much he detested corruption, by frequently repeating this maxim, " that a judge should neither give nor take a bribe ;" and instead of complying with arbitrary measures, on various occasions he showed himself the firm friend of the liberties of his country, and of the rights of individuals.

This conduct, however honourable to himself, was not likely to ingratiate him with James, or render his office permanent : for till the present reign the judges were dependent on the royal will ; and justice wanted this best and greatest safeguard, — an assurance that its ministers could not be displaced, except for misconduct in their office.

By degrees, sir Edward Coke became more and more obnoxious to government ; and the chancellor Bacon, in the plenitude of his power, eagerly widened the breach by his courtly insinuations. The immediate cause of sir Edward's disgrace is differently accounted for. Certainly he had shown himself unfavourable to the leading maxims of James's court ; he had offended the favourite, sir George Villiers, afterwards duke of Buckingham ; and the chancellor was his inveterate enemy.

Against such a combination of powerful interests, it was impossible for him to maintain his ground : his fall was determined ; and the manner in which it was accomplished was in the highest degree humiliating.

Being called before the privy-council, on the 20th of June, 1616, in the most unprecedented manner, he was obliged to kneel while the solicitor-general preferred several vague accusations against him ; such as " speeches of high contempt uttered in the seat of justice ; and uncomely and undutiful carriage in the presence of his majesty, the privy-council, and the judges."

Reduced to this degraded situation, in an able and im-

partial manner he exculpated himself from the several charges urged against him, in support of which no direct evidence was advanced; but his removal being predetermined, the only business was to prepare the way, and to invent some plausible excuses for such an exertion of power.

At a second examination before the council, one of the secretaries of state informed him, that his majesty desired he might be sequestered from the council-table till his further pleasure was known; that he should forbear to ride his summer circuit as judge of assize; and lastly, that he should, during the vacation, revise his book of Reports, in which it was declared there were many extravagant and exorbitant opinions; and having made what corrections his discretion recommended, he was to exhibit the same privately to the king. Thus it appears the pedant James wished to assume the office of critic; and was perhaps the first, and it is to be hoped the last of our sovereigns, to usurp a character so degrading to royalty.

Sir Edward submitted to his majesty's commands; yet at the commencement of next term the lord-chancellor imperiously forbade him Westminster-hall, and ordered him to answer several exceptions against his Reports. In the ensuing month, he was dismissed from the office of lord chief justice; when lord Verulam not only privately triumphed in his disgrace, but personally insulted him by a very acrimonious composition, under the title of "An Admonitory Letter," in which he totally forgot the dignity of the gentleman and the meekness of the philosopher.

But though degraded by the court, sir Edward was not yet dishonoured in the eyes of the people; and if he had shown that fortitude and steadiness of resolution which the occasion required, he might have been considered as a martyr to his incorruptible integrity. Unfortunately, however, either a love of power, or a rankling desire to triumph once more over a rival by whom he had been foiled, prevailed on him to adopt a plan of policy in which he was every way the loser. Haughty and arrogant in

his prosperity, he became dejected and fawning in his adversity ; and therefore neither deserved to be an object of respect in the one, nor of generous sympathy in the other.

While chief justice, he had rejected with disdain some proposals for a marriage between his daughter and sir John Villiers, brother of the duke of Buckingham ; but no sooner was his fall consummated, than he magnified his own disgrace by courting this alliance through the most abject means, and by the most inconsiderate conduct. In fact, he allowed Buckingham to make what conditions he pleased in favour of his brother ; and as interest, not love, was the foundation of the proposed match, the terms insisted on were sufficiently exorbitant. But sir Edward had gone too far to recede ; and hoped for such influence by this connection, that he did not regard the great diminution of his own income which the settlement occasioned, nor this compromise of his honour. His lady, however, would by no means consent to this affair ; and disapproving of the match, merely because she had not been consulted on its propriety, she carried off her daughter ; and thus the whole family and their connections were thrown into confusion. The young lady being rescued by force, both husband and wife appealed in their turn to the privy-council ; but sir Edward having regained a seat at that board, the marriage was quickly solemnized with great pomp ; and a reconciliation was effected between all the parties. It may not, however, be improper to remark, that this connection was as disastrous in its consequences as unpleasant in its commencement. Sir John Villiers, having obtained a fortune, disregarded the person who conferred it ; and his lady recriminated by the most flagrant violations of decorum.

The lord chief-justiceship having been disposed of before this business was brought forward, sir Edward was precluded from all hopes of resuming that high station but being reinstated in council, he was employed in various important political negotiations, particularly in adjusting

the differences between the Dutch and English East India companies.

A parliament being summoned in 1621, sir Edward Coke was chosen a member; and probably finding that he had been duped by the party to which he had sacrificed so much, he exerted his great talents and his eloquence, in exposing the mischievous tendency of various ministerial measures. At the same time, he boldly contended for the constitutional privileges of parliament; and urged with great animation, the institution of a committee to enquire into the national grievances.

In consequence of this spirited behaviour, the king, jealous of his prerogative in the highest degree, became extremely alarmed. By an injudicious proclamation he forbade all persons to intermeddle, by pen or speech, with state affairs; and even intimated to parliament, that politics were above their comprehension; and that all the privileges they claimed flowed from his royal grace and favour, and might be withdrawn at his pleasure.

Such were the wild and dangerous principles which, though not originally advanced by the Stuarts, brought that devoted family to disgrace and ruin. In the reign of Henry the Eighth, the most daring infringements of the people's rights (which are inseparably connected with the independence of parliament) were suffered to pass unnoticed. In the reign of Elizabeth, the nation began to increase in opulence and resources: a spirit of enquiry was diffused among all ranks: and the representatives began to feel their consequence, though they seldom ventured to defend it. The policy of that great princess, and her well-known ardent attachment to the honour and happiness of her subjects, silenced all oppositions to her will: but when James showed the most determined design to trample on those liberties which had either been legitimately sanctioned, or tacitly allowed, during a long succession of ages; when he extorted money from his people, merely to squander it away on his vicious favourites; the parliament began to assume its due constitutional powers.

and the nation seconded its laudable endeavours. The conflict indeed was renewed and suspended, according as parties clashed or were united : but from this period, the separate rights of the constituent branches of the government began to be ascertained and defined with a greater degree of precision ; and though frequently overlooked in party contentions and political rage, were never quite forgotten, till the glorious fabric of a free government was completed at the Revolution.

But to return to the arbitrary proclamation of king James. The parliament, in its turn alarmed at the language of this paper, drew up a protest in strong but constitutional terms, which was ordered to be entered on the journals. James, when apprised of this measure, hastened with headlong rage to the house of commons, and with his own hand tore out the protest, which he declared to be null and void. He then prorogued the parliament ; and soon after sir Edward Coke was sent to the Tower, for the intrepidity which he had shown in asserting the people's rights.

Whatever were originally the motives of this illustrious lawyer's opposition to the measures of the court, he was now confirmed a patriot. There is a spirit in noble minds which rises with injuries, but is easily allayed by kindness. He now became sincere and warm in the cause for which he had suffered ; and the remainder of his life was one scene of steady and honourable exertion, in the cause of freedom and his country.

The nation was thrown into a flame by the imperious and indecent conduct of James towards the parliament ; and this desperate act of tearing out the protest from the journals of the house of commons may be justly said to have pointed the dagger to the bosom of his son and successor, the unhappy Charles.

Sir Edward was soon liberated, as it could not be proved that he had transgressed the limits of his duty ; but, to disgrace him, he was a second time erased from the list of privy-counsellors ; when the king complimented him by

declaring "that he was the fittest instrument for a tyrant that ever was in England," though it is evident that this could only be said in order to bring him into suspicion with the people.

During the remainder of the reign of James, sir Edward seems to have strenuously supported the principles which he had avowed, and to have been wholly out of favour at court. In the beginning of the next reign, when it was necessary to call a parliament, the administration were so apprehensive of his powerful talents and expected opposition, that against all decency and precedent, he was obliged to serve the office of high-sheriff of Buckinghamshire, and to attend the judges at the assize, where he had often presided as lord chief-justice.

This, however, was only a temporary expedient to silence him. In the parliament of 1628 he was returned for the county of Bucks; and exerted himself with uncommon energy in defending the liberty of the subject, and the privileges of the commons. He had a principal share in drawing up what was called the petition of right: which desired, among other particulars, that no loan or tax might be levied but by consent of parliament; that no person might be imprisoned but by legal process; that soldiers should not be quartered on people against their wills; and that no commissions should be granted for executing martial law.

The king hesitating to comply with this in direct terms, but yet not rejecting it, sir Edward used the most inflammatory language; and urged parliament not to depend on the royal professions, but to persist in obtaining the customary sanction, which his majesty at last reluctantly gave. His whole conduct now bore the appearance of insult to his sovereign, rather than of that mild and firm patriotism which would have reflected honour on his memory; and he may be said to be a principal instigator of those measures which ended in the temporary destruction of monarchy.

After the dissolution of this parliament, which hap-

pened in 1629, he retired to his house at Stoke Pogges in Bucks ; where he closed a long life in 1634, expiring with these words in his mouth : " Thy kingdom come ! thy will be done ! "

Such was the resentment of the court against him, that while he lay on his death-bed, sir Francis Windebank, by an order of council, searched his house for seditious and dangerous papers ; and by virtue of this authority, carried off his commentary upon Littelton, the history of his own life, and numerous manuscripts, together with his very will and testament. At the request of his son and heir, seven years afterwards, such of his papers as could be found were delivered up ; but many of them were irrecoverably lost, and among the rest his will.

Sir Edward Coke was well-proportioned, and regular in his features. In his dress he was neat rather than effeminate ; and it was one of his sentiments, " that the cleanness of a man's clothes ought to put him in mind of keeping all clean within." He possessed great quickness of parts, a retentive memory, and a solid judgment. In his profession he was unrivalled ; he had studied it entirely, and he was master of all its parts. He used to say, " that matter lay in little room," and therefore was concise in his pleadings ; but he was diffuse and elaborate in his set speeches and writings.

He prided himself on deriving his fortune, his reputation, and preferments, not from solicitations, flattery, or intrigue, but from his profound knowledge in the law. By the gentlemen of his profession he was greatly honoured and beloved ; and his reputation as a law-writer is so firmly established in the courts, that his works are considered as indisputable authorities. With unexampled diligence he committed every thing to writing ; for law was his element, and he loved it with enthusiastic ardour.

Amidst various vicissitudes of fortune, he never seems to have desponded ; and king James used to compare him to a cat, that always falls upon its feet. No sooner had he suffered a disgrace, than he began to project the means

of effacing it, and of rising superior to his enemies. The steps which he took, the line of conduct which he pursued, were not always the most dignified ; but they seem always to have been the most effectual to answer the intended purpose.

He was partial to men of merit, though not an absolute Mécenas : and having many benefices in his own patronage, he was careful to bestow them gratuitously on the most deserving clergymen ; declaring, in the technical language of his profession, “ that he would have church preferment pass by *livery* and *seisin*, not by bargain and sale.”

THOMAS WENTWORTH,
EARL OF STRAFFORD.

Born 1593. — Beheaded 1641.

From 35th Elizabeth to 16th Charles I.

It is one unhappy consequence of factious and perturbed times, that the characters of the principal performers in the drama are seen through a false medium. By their partisans they are exhibited as immaculate ; by their enemies, as devoid of every virtue. The unfortunate earl of Strafford is among the number of those whom the fatal contest between prerogative and constitutional liberty consigned to a premature grave ; and so variously have his qualities been estimated, that they must be inferred from impartially reviewing the tenor of his conduct, not from the colours in which they have been dressed, by either his favourers or opponents.

Thomas Wentworth was descended from a very ancient family, seated at Wentworth in Yorkshire. His father was a baronet : and his mother, daughter and heiress of

sir Robert Atkins, of the county of Gloucester. He was born in London: and after a proper grammatical education was entered of St. John's college, Cambridge, where his diligence and application to literature and science soon rendered him conspicuous. Being born, however, to a great fortune, his studies were directed with no view to any particular profession; and as it was his principal object to complete the character of a gentleman, after quitting the university he set out on foreign travels.

By the time when he had reached the age of twenty-one, his father died; and the baronetage, and family estate of about six thousand pounds a year, devolved on him. From his property and influence, he was appointed *custos rotulorum* of Yorkshire, and was early elected a representative for that county in parliament. On his first essays in the grand theatre of public life, history is silent: but in the new parliament on the accession of Charles the First, he enlisted under the banners of opposition; and became so formidable by his eloquence, that to prevent its display, he was nominated high sheriff of Yorkshire in 1626, and the same year put under an arrest for refusing his contribution to an arbitrary loan.

In the parliament of 1628, however, he strenuously exerted himself to obtain a redress of grievances; and with great severity blaming the conduct of ministers, while he exonerated the king, his immediate object was not suspected by the party with which he had connected himself.

His talents and influence were now so universally acknowledged, that it was worth some sacrifices to secure them. It was found by administration that he had his price; and a peerage, with the presidentship of the North, were the terms of his surrender into the arms of the court. At first, however, he affected some reluctance, and seemed ashamed to avow his apostacy; but wishing to magnify his services, he at last threw off his disguise to the popular leader Pym, and endeavoured to gain him as

an associate in his new character. Pym was not so easily won; and replied in bitter but prophetic terms; "You have left us, but I will not leave you, while your head is on your shoulders!"

Being shunned by his former friends, he sought consolation in acquiring new ones; particularly archbishop Laud, with whom he formed a close intimacy, and whose measures he vigorously supported. As president of the North he behaved with great severity, and in some cases with puerile insolence: for he committed the son of lord Falconberg for no offence but neglecting to move his hat to him; though it appeared that the young nobleman was actually looking another way, when the president expected this compliment.

He was afterwards promoted to the high office of lord-deputy of Ireland, with very ample powers, which were still too limited for his ambition. In this situation he distinguished himself by his arbitrary measures, and his fondness for pomp; but his government on the whole was so prudent and decisive, that he improved the finances in a wonderful degree, and brought the Irish church to a perfect uniformity with that of England. Regarding Ireland as a conquered country, he did not hesitate to enforce his authority by exertions beyond the law; and treated some of the most illustrious peers of that kingdom with an arrogance which admits of no excuse.

He imprisoned the earl of Kildare for opposing his propositions to parliament; and on a private misunderstanding, provoked by his own insolence, brought lord Mountmorres to trial by a court-martial, which condemned him to die. The sentence was indeed mitigated; but this nobleman was stript of an estate, and of all his employments civil and military, obliged to acknowledge the justice of his doom, and to suffer three years' imprisonment.

Such conduct must have alienated the affections of the most submissive people; nor was it politically necessary. The exercise of duty sometimes requires and justifies

prompt and severe measures ; but private resentment should never appear, in the dispensation of justice. Notwithstanding those notorious defects in his administration, he succeeded so far in awing the turbulent, and in replenishing the treasury, that his majesty, as a further proof of approbation, created him earl of Strafford, and knight of the garter.

By the same means by which he gained the favour of his sovereign, he lost all confidence with the people ; who singled him out as the first victim of their vengeance.

Immediately after the opening of the Long Parliament in 1640, his implacable enemy, Pym, having harangued the house in a long and eloquent speech on the grievances of the nation, and finding that he had inflamed his auditors to a proper pitch, concluded by branding the earl of Strafford with the most odious appellations ; representing him as the most inveterate foe to the liberties of his country, and the greatest promoter of tyranny that any age had produced. The house being thus fired with the most indignant emotions, a motion was suddenly made and carried, " that the earl of Strafford be immediately impeached of high treason ; and that Mr. Pym do carry up the said impeachment to the lords."

Accordingly, Pym appeared at the bar of the house of lords ; and having impeached him in the name of all the commons of England, requested that he might be sequestered from all councils, and put into safe custody. The earl, being then in England, had that very day taken his seat in the house. Some friends had given him warning that it was in contemplation to attack him, and advised him to absent himself : but Strafford, spurning a conduct which might expose him to the imputation of pusillanimity, or perhaps thinking himself secure in royal protection, appeared in his place : and immediately upon his impeachment was committed to custody, and some days after, lodged in the Tower.

So sudden was the transition of this ill-fated nobleman from the height of power to the miseries of confinement,

that reflection cannot help moralising on his fate; and whatever may have been his errors or his crimes, from this moment he became respectable in the eyes of every person, who can honour true magnanimity and patient resignation.

— Twenty-eight articles were prepared and exhibited against him; chiefly relating to his conduct as president of the council in the North, as governor of Ireland, and as counsellor and commander in England. Some of these were frivolous, and others vexatious: on them he might have been convicted of very serious misdemeanours; but with all the ingenuity of malice, it seems impossible to have done more. His accusers, therefore, after a protracted trial of eighteen days, during which the earl was collected and firm in an astonishing degree, finding that they could not legally substantiate the charges against him, dropped this mode of procedure, and brought in a bill of attainder. Accordingly, it was voted, on the evidence which had been produced, “that the earl of Strafford had endeavoured to subvert the fundamental laws of the kingdom, and introduce an arbitrary and tyrannical government into the realms of England and Ireland;” and, as a consequence of those positions, “that he was guilty of high-treason.”

A few days after, this bill passed the commons by a great majority; but being carried to the house of peers, the popular party, alarmed lest they should be defeated in their meditated vengeance by the moderation or justice of that assembly, procured petitions, from forty-three thousand inhabitants of London, urging the execution of justice on the earl of Strafford, and setting forth some real or imaginary fears and suspicions of attempts against the independence of parliament.

The king, on the other hand, from anxiety to save one of his most devoted servants, breaking through those forms which the constitution has wisely established, appeared in parliament, and made an energetic and feeling speech in favour of the earl, conjuring them not to pro-

ceed to the last extremities with the accused ; as he could not, in conscience, think him guilty of treason, but only of misdemeanours, for which his majesty allowed, that he ought to be dismissed from his councils and service for ever.

This moderate though irregular appeal by the king to the national representation, it might have been supposed would not have been in vain ; but so jealous had the commons become of the exercise of prerogative, that they would scarcely allow Charles, without suspicion, the feelings of a man. His interference was taken in the very worst sense, and was made use of as a pretext to hasten the catastrophe. Indeed, when some of the sanguine but weak friends of Strafford ran with joy to inform him how warmly the king had pleaded his cause, the earl, more penetrating and sagacious, saw that his doom was sealed, and that he had only to prepare for death.

The lords, however, seem to have proceeded with great deliberation in passing the bill of attainder ; but the house was incessantly surrounded with mobs in hostile array, who were clamorous for justice, while every avenue of the royal palace echoed with the sound.

In this situation, decision became an imperious duty ; and in order to allay the popular ferment, both houses were obliged to sign a protestation, the purport of which was, that each individual would exert himself to the utmost to defend the established religion, and the privileges of parliament ; and likewise do all in his power to bring to condign punishment all who, by force or conspiracy, plotted against either. With this the populace were satisfied, and quietly dispersed.

The Irish no sooner discovered that a man whose government had been so obnoxious to them was under trial, than they sent a deputation to both houses, to represent their own grounds of complaint ; by which the charges brought against Strafford in England were partially substantiated, and his condemnation was rendered certain.

So vigilant, indeed, were the commons ; so apprehensive that the accused might be fraudulently delivered out of their hands, or have any possibility of escaping ; that they petitioned to have the guards at the Tower strengthened ; and when it was reported that the military power in that fortress was about to be committed to a friend of Strafford's, they remonstrated against such an appointment, and the king was obliged to withdraw the order.

Being secure in this respect, they meditated schemes still more prejudicial to the constitution ; and, as it often happens in public and private contentions, the aggrieved became the aggressor. Charles had been loudly censured for betraying an inclination to extend the prerogative ; but the commons now took a step which violated all constitutional authority. Foreseeing that in the last extremity the king might dissolve the parliament, and by this means elude their vengeance against Strafford, they declared their sitting permanent, at least till both houses should agree to a dissolution.

The matter was now brought to a crisis. Charles immediately summoned his privy-council : and the prevailing advice was, to satisfy the wishes of his people ; on the ground that the life of one man was not to be balanced with the tranquillity and safety of the kingdom. The conscientious, though infatuated king, still felt all the anguish of regret at the idea of being obliged to pass sentence, on a man whom he esteemed as one of his most faithful servants, and who was suffering only in his cause. He was irresolute, and distracted by contending principles.

Strafford, being apprised of his royal master's distress, with a sense of duty and attachment of which there are few examples, wrote a most pathetic letter to the king, conjuring him to pass the bill which was to remove him from the stage of life, in hopes that this measure would for ever establish harmony between the sovereign and his people ; adding, " that his consent would more acquit his majesty to God, than all the world could do besides."

"To a willing man," said he, "there can be no injury done."

After passing two days and nights in a state of perplexity not to be described, harassed by his parliament, beset by his people, and advised by his cabinet to submit, Charles at last signed the fatal warrant for execution; and by this very act paved the way for his own downfall.

On the 12th of May, 1641, the earl of Strafford was brought to the scaffold on Tower-hill: he ascended it with perfect composure, and took an affectionate farewell of his relations and friends. To his brother, who was weeping excessively, he thus addressed himself with a cheerful countenance: "What do you see in me to deserve these tears? Does any indecent fear betray in me a guilt, or my innocent boldness any atheism? Think now you are accompanying me the third time to my marriage-bed. Never did I throw off my clothes with greater freedom and content, than in this preparation to my grave. That stock," pointing to the block, "must be my pillow; here shall I rest from all my labours; no thoughts of envy, no dreams of treason, no jealousies nor cares for the king, the state, or myself, shall interrupt this easy sleep. Therefore, brother, with me, pity those who, contrary to their intentions, have made me happy. Rejoice in my felicity, rejoice in my innocence."

Then kneeling down, he made the following animated protestation: "I hope, gentlemen, you will not think that either the fear of loss of life, or the love of reputation, will suffer me to belie my God and my own conscience, at such a moment. I am now in the very door going out; and my next step will be from time to eternity, either of peace or pain. To clear myself before you all, I do here solemnly call God to witness, I am not guilty, so far as I can understand, of the great crime laid to my charge; nor have I ever had the least inclination or intention to prejudice the king, the state, the laws, or the religion of this kingdom; but with my best endeavours

to serve all, and to support all. So may God be merciful to my soul!"

Then rising up, he expressed his desire of addressing the people; and a profound silence ensuing, he made an animated and pathetic harangue; in which he exculpated himself of every principal charge that had been alleged against him; professed the rectitude of his heart, and his attachment to his royal master and the constitution in church and state; declared his forgiveness of all his enemies, and concluded with requesting the pardon of all whom he had offended by word or deed.

Having finished, he saluted the friends who attended him on the scaffold, desiring their prayers; and with the utmost devotion addressed himself to Heaven for nearly half an hour, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

After this he sent his last blessing to his family, in terms of the warmest affection; and, preparing himself for the block, laid down his head with surprising fortitude and calmness; and at one blow, he was no more.

Notwithstanding the dignified manner in which the earl of Strafford had conducted himself in this last scene, no tears from the people attended his death. On the contrary, his execution was regarded as a matter of triumph; and numbers who had flocked to see it, returned into the country, waving their hats in all the exultation of barbarous joy.

The abilities of Strafford were far above mediocrity, and his eloquence was very considerable. In point of personal courage, and those accomplishments which befit the gentleman, he deserved high praise: but at the same time it must be confessed, that he was inordinately ambitious, arrogant, and passionate. In his manner of living he practised habitual temperance, and his application to business was extreme. In private life he is represented as a warm and generous friend; and had he lived in a more tranquil age, or figured in a less public theatre, he might have descended to a peaceful grave, not only without censure, but with applause.

After the Restoration, the bill of attainder was reversed as a stigma on the national justice, and his son inherited his titles and estates.

JOHN HAMPDEN.

Born 1594. — Died 1643.

From 36th Elizabeth to 18th Charles I.

To appreciate the real merits of political men from the history of our own times, is a most difficult task. The best intention is too often sullied by the event; and prejudice, or partiality, sees with distorted eyes the series of causes which lead to an important catastrophe. But an impartial posterity removes the glare of false colouring; and estimates character from its obvious tendency to good or evil, its innate propensity to virtue or vice.

While the long-exploded doctrines of passive obedience and non-resistance were in vogue, Hampden was portrayed as the Catiline of his age; but no sooner did constitutional liberty assume its proper form, and the interest and the glory of the sovereign become intimately and indissolubly united with those of the people, than he was regarded as the champion of his country's rights, and a martyr for her independence.

John Hampden was descended from a long line of ancestors, settled at Great Hampden in Buckinghamshire; and by the maternal side was nearly related to Oliver Cromwell. London claims the honour of his birth; but this unimportant point rests only on tradition; and indeed a dark veil is thrown over his early years. There are no traces of the future patriot in his juvenile days; no indications of the character which he was about to assume, or the part which he was destined to perform. Actions are

frequently the result of fortuitous circumstances, and talents are elicited by the pressure of the moment. Had Hampden been born at any other period, or met with less urgent occasions for a display of his patriotism, it is probable that his name might now have been unknown to fame. Thousands are carried down the stream of oblivion, without ever having an opportunity of disclosing their virtues or their vices; and join their kindred dust unnoticed and unregarded.

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid
 Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire :
 Hands that the rod of empire might have sway'd,
 Or wak'd to ecstasy the living lyre.

* * * * *

Some village HAMPDEN, that with dauntless breast
 The little tyrant of his fields withstood ;
 Some mute inglorious MILTON, here may rest ;
 Some CROMWELL, guiltless of his country's blood.

GRAY'S ELEGY.

About the fifteenth year of his age, he was admitted a gentleman commoner of Magdalen college, Oxford; whence he removed, without taking any degree, to the inns of court. His progress in the study of the laws appears to have been considerable; and he might perhaps have made a distinguished figure at the bar, had not the death of his father early put him into possession of a splendid fortune.

In the bosom of affluence, without a check on his youthful passions, it is said that he gave way to the natural consequences of such a situation, and ran into the usual dissipations of young men of fortune; but without that degradation of character and probity which some incur. His reason soon recalled him from every excess; and he began to associate with persons of more austere and correct manners, while his natural vivacity of temper remained the same.

Though undeviating wisdom may not always attend the young, in every sensible mind there is a germ of reflec-

tion; and happy is it for those who early arrive at the stationary point of moderation. Hampden's views seem to have expanded with his change of manners; and he qualified himself in the shade, for the public part which he was afterwards called to perform.

Having married a lady of considerable fortune and connections, he was returned to parliament in 1626; and, espousing the popular cause, was strenuous in promoting an enquiry into the national grievances. His shrewdness and talents for oratory recommended him to the leading men of his party, and his resolution soon made him conspicuous. He protested against levying the duties of tonnage and poundage, with peculiar vehemence; and was taken into custody for refusing to advance money on loans not sanctioned by the voice of parliament.

The applause which this conduct gained him from the people, fixed his principles; for it appears to have been the character of Hampden to advance with caution, but never to recede with wavering steps. It was not, however, till 1636, that his energy and fortitude distinguished him from the rest of his fellow-patriots. At that time, when arbitrary power was making continual encroachments on the liberty of the subject, and had almost reached its height of violence, Charles, by one stroke of impolicy committed himself with an individual, and eventually with the nation. Hampden had been assessed the small sum of twenty shillings, in aid of what was called *ship-money*; which was attempted to be raised by a writ under the great seal, without the concurrence of parliament. He singly resisted this illegal exaction; unawed by authority, undaunted by menaces, unabashed by calumny, and incorruptible by bribes. The cause was brought to trial in the court of exchequer, and solemnly argued by the collective abilities of the bar for twelve days, successively; but, as might naturally be expected, judgment went against him. According to Clarendon, however, who was not one of his panegyrists, he conducted himself in this great trial with such temper and modesty, that he

actually obtained more credit by losing, than the king did himself service by gaining it. What had been hitherto yielded from affection, was now paid with murmuring reluctance; and the eyes of all men were turned on Hampden, as the pilot who was to conduct them through the storm, the champion who was to contend for the legal rights of all.

His popularity now became so great, that he was regarded as the father of his country, and the intrepid assertor of its liberties. He received the glorious appellation of the PATRIOT HAMPDEN, and this title he never forfeited. He watched every measure of the court with jealous circumspection; and defeated every attempt against civil liberty, with a prudence that entitled him to respect even from his opponents, and with a zeal that nothing could withstand. As the depositary of the national confidence, he held his trust most sacred; yet he appears to have been actuated by no motives of personal hostility to his sovereign, nor views of aggrandisement for himself.

If he resisted arbitrary power, it was to preserve the constitution inviolate; and on the meeting of the Long Parliament in 1640, his power and interest to do good or harm, in the opinion of lord Clarendon, were greater than any man's in the kingdom, or than any man of his rank had possessed at any time. His reputation for honesty was universal: and he appeared to be guided by such public principles, that no private or sinister ends could give them an improper bias.

Having taken an active part in the prosecution of Strafford and Laud, it is said that Hampden, after the removal of those obnoxious persons, was unwilling to proceed further to extremities; and in consequence projected a union of parties, aspiring to none of the splendid and lucrative offices of the state for himself, but merely to the appointment of being tutor to the prince of Wales. He was sensible that the misfortunes of the nation arose from the mistaken principles of the sovereign; and anxious to correct rather than to overthrow the constitution.

he rationally concluded that he could not perform a more essential service to his country, than by forming the young prince's mind to legitimate sentiments of government. At first it appears that Charles listened to proposals of accommodation : but he afterwards retracted his concessions : and this apparent want of sincerity determined the part that Hampden was to act.

The parliament now saw there was no alternative, but implicit submission or open resistance ; and the scene began to unfold which gradually deluged the country in blood, and opened the flood-gates of anarchy. As Charles levied forces by his prerogative, the parliament, foreseeing against whom these troops were to be directed, raised an army for the defence of the state ; and Hampden accepted the command of a regiment of foot in their service.

As he had been instrumental in bringing matters to this crisis, so he was one of the first that commenced the civil war. The king had placed a garrison at Brill, in Buckinghamshire, a few miles from Oxford, the situation of which gave it considerable importance. This station Hampden attacked, and displayed the same courage in the field, as eloquence in the senate. But his military career was of short duration : for he was soon after mortally wounded in a skirmish with prince Rupert in Chalgrove-field, near Benson, in Oxfordshire ; and, after languishing six days, died, to the unspeakable regret and consternation of his party. His incautious bravery precipitated his fate ; and the royalists exulted in his death, as if the dispute had thus been settled ; and considered it as a just judgment on the most active partisan of rebellion. Yet the king, when he heard of Hampden's situation, sent his own physician to attend him, as a mark of personal respect ; and to judge from the antecedent conduct of Hampden, this favour, if he had lived, would have been returned with addition. His natural disposition, the integrity of his heart, and the influence which he had acquired, would probably have co-operated to save both the king and the constitution from final destruction. Though he had re-

sisted the encroachments of arbitrary power, he would have bowed to legitimate authority ; and had his life been spared, it can scarcely be doubted, that he would have opposed the usurpation of Cromwell with equal resolution and success. The credit which he had gained, would have speedily raised him to the command of the army ; and as he was never known to exercise authority but for what he regarded as the public good, it may charitably be presumed, that he would have listened with pleasure to the concessions which the unhappy Charles was afterwards induced to make.

Let the fate however of Hampden, and the consequences which ensued from his opposition, pure as it might be, teach the propriety of lenient measures, and the extreme danger of engaging in civil conflicts. The first agents in reform may possibly be influenced by the most patriotic views ; but when once popular opposition is roused, and the bands of established government are loosened, the power may soon be wrested from the hands which before wielded it, and be usurped by men of the most corrupt principles. Then flows in all the tide of misery which the virtuous seek to avoid, but the impetuosity of which they are unable to restrain. The history of all ages and of all nations confirms this incontrovertible maxim : “ that violence may demolish, but cannot repair ; and that every melioration of the constitution of a country must be effectuated by gradual and almost imperceptible means, in order to render it salutary and permanent.”

The character of a man who stands so prominent on the historic canvass of the period in which he lived, and who may furnish both an incentive and a warning to future patriots, ought not to be dismissed without further notice. It is unnecessary, however, to attempt to draw a new character. The dark side has been forcibly delineated by the noble historian of the civil wars, and the bright by the celebrated Mrs. Macaulay. As a proof of impartial-

lity, both are here subjoined; nor can either be read without advantage.

“He was,” says lord Clarendon, “a man of great cunning, and, it may be, of the most discerning spirit; and of the greatest address and insinuation to bring any thing to pass which he desired, of any man of that time, and who laid the design deepest. He was of that rare affability and temper in debate, and of that seeming humility and submission of judgment, as if he brought no opinion of his own with him, but a desire of information and instruction; yet he had so subtle a way, and under the notion of doubts insinuating his objections, that he infused his own opinions into those from whom he pretended to learn and receive them. And even with them who were able to preserve themselves from his infusions, and discerned those opinions to be fixed in him with which they could not comply, he always left the character of an ingenuous and conscientious person. He was indeed a very wise man, and of great parts; and possessed with the most absolute spirit of popularity, and the most absolute faculties to govern the people, of any man I ever knew. For the first year of the parliament, he seemed rather to moderate and soften the violent and dispassioned humours, than to inflame them. But wise and dispassionate men plainly discerned that that moderation proceeded from prudence, and observation that the season was not ripe, rather than that he approved of the moderation: and that he begot many opinions and notions, the education whereof he committed to other men; so far disguising his own designs, that he seemed seldom to wish more than was concluded. And in many gross conclusions, which would hereafter contribute to designs not yet set on foot, when he found them sufficiently backed by a majority of voices, he would withdraw himself before the question, that he might seem not to consent to so much visible unreasonableness; which produced as great *a doubt in some*, as it did approbation in others, of his ~~conduct~~. After he was among those members accused

by the king of high-treason, he was much altered ; his nature and carriage seeming much fiercer than it did before : and without question, when he first drew his sword, he threw away the scabbard. He was very temperate in diet ; and a supreme governor over all his passions and affections, and had thereby a great power over other men's. He was of an industry and vigilance not to be tired out or wearied by the most laborious, and of parts not to be imposed upon by the most subtle and sharp, and of a personal courage equal to his best parts ; so that he was an enemy not to be wished, wherever he might have been made a friend ; and as much to be apprehended where he was so, as any man could deserve to be. And therefore his death was no less pleasing to the one party, than it was condoled in the other. In a word, what was said of Cinna might well be applied to him ; he had a head to contrive, a tongue to persuade, and a hand to execute any mischief ; or, as the historian says elsewhere, any good."

" Clarendon," remarks Mrs. Macaulay, " has pretended to draw the exact portraiture of this eminent personage ; but though marked with those partial lines which distinguish the hand of the historian, it is the testimony of an enemy to virtues, possessed only by the foremost rank of men. With all the talents and virtues which render private life useful, amiable, and respectable, were united in Hampden, in the highest degree, those excellences which guide the jarring opinions of popular counsels to determined points ; and whilst he penetrated into the most secret designs of other men, he never discovered more of his own inclinations than was necessary to the purpose in hand. In debate he was so much a master, that joining the art of Socrates with the graces of Cicero, he fixed his own opinion under the modest guise of desiring to improve by that of others ; and, contrary to the nature of disputes, left a pleasing impression, which prejudiced his antagonist in his favour, even when he had not convinced or altered his judgment. His carriage was so

generally, uniformly, and unaffectedly affable; his conversation so enlivened by his vivacity, so seasoned by his knowledge and understanding, and so well applied to the genius, humour, and prejudices, of those he conversed with, and that his talents to gain popularity were absolute. With qualities of this high nature, he possessed in council penetration and discernment, with a sagacity on which no one could impose, an industry and vigilance which were indefatigable, with the entire mastery of his passions and affections; an advantage which gave him infinite superiority over less regulated minds. It was he whom the party relied on to animate the cold counsels of their general; it was his example and influence they trusted to keep him honest to the interest of the public, and to preserve to the parliament the affections of the army. Had he been at first appointed to the supreme military command, the civil war under all the horrors of which the country languished more than three years, would have been but of a short continuance."

DR. WILLIAM HARVEY.

Born 1578. — Died 1657.

From 20th Elizabeth to 8th Charles II.

IN every walk of life, and in every profession, Britain has reason to be proud of her sons. The healing art, in particular, has not only been carried to a very great degree of practical perfection by some of our illustrious countrymen; but many of the most valuable and salutary discoveries in physiology and anatomy exclusively belong to them. No medical author, however, has gained more glory than Harvey. His investigations led to the most important ends; and tend to the benefit of all mankind, to the latest posterity. They throw a lustre on his profession

and his name, which envy cannot tarnish, or malevolence conceal.

This celebrated physician was the eldest son of a genteel family, settled at Folkstone in Kent. When he had reached his tenth year, he was sent to the grammar-school at Canterbury; where being well stored with classical learning, he was removed at an early age to Gonvil and Caius college, Cambridge. In this university, he diligently applied to such studies as were fundamentally connected with medicine: and after six years spent here, he commenced his foreign travels, with a view solely to proficiency in his destined profession. Retiring to Padua in Italy, he attended the lectures of the famous Fabricius of Aquapendente, on anatomy: of Minodaus, on pharmacy; and of Casserius, on surgery. Under such distinguished masters, with a mind naturally inquisitive, and wholly devoted to medical studies and researches, his progress must have been rapid; but whether he had yet conceived the idea which led to his future fame cannot now be ascertained. He staid to take a degree in that university; and at the age of twenty-four returned to his native country.

Being immediately admitted doctor in physic at Cambridge, he settled in London, and entered on the practice of his profession. By gradual advances, he rose to considerable eminence; was chosen a fellow of the college of physicians, and appointed physician to St. Bartholomew's hospital.

In 1615, he was chosen by the college to read an anatomical and chirurgical lecture: and it is probable that this gave him the first opportunity of disclosing his sentiments respecting the peculiar structure of the heart, and the circulation of the blood. His ideas on this subject he threw out with caution, and gradually developed the important principles to which they led; but when he had thoroughly canvassed his own hypothesis, fortified it by arguments, and confirmed it by repeated experiments, he published at Frankfort a Latin treatise, concerning the motion of the heart and blood. This work, in the opinion

of the best judges, is a master-piece of perspicuity in arrangement, and of strong reasoning ; nor was its literary merit inferior to the sublime doctrines which it was intended to establish.

But though Harvey's discovery was of the greatest importance in the healing art ; and deserved the candid reception, if not the high approbation of all ; he met with that fate, which superior merit must not hope to escape. He was envied by those who could not comprehend the value of his doctrine ; he was traduced by the dull plodders in the trammels of established prejudices, who could not reach his heights. His own profession, in particular, for some time regarded his opinions as heretical or dangerous ; and though they were not able to confute him, they raised a war of words, in which argument was lost, and truth and reason were treated as the worst of foes. It appears from a letter of Harvey to one of his friends, that in proportion as he deserved reputation, his practice as a physician diminished ; and that the most ignoble arts were used to depress a man whom obloquy could not depreciate, and whose applause was one day to become universal through the world.

Even foreign physicians entered warmly into the controversy ; and either attacked the truth of his hypothesis, or denied him the praise of originality. It is thus in every branch of science, and in every great and meritorious performance. Those who have benefited or enlightened mankind have too frequently been made the victims of their virtues or their knowledge ; and envy, which cannot endure to behold living worth, has relented only at the grave.

But Harvey, though he suffered from the storm, had the singular felicity to outlive its fury ; and to see the world pressing forward to pay him the homage due to an original genius, and a benefactor of his kind. The more his system was criticised, the more its validity was established ; like gold that has been tried, and comes brighter out of the furnace. By degrees the circulation of the

blood was generally admitted ; and men began to wonder how such a palpable truth had so long been undiscovered, and still more, so long opposed.

In 1623, king James the First appointed Dr. Harvey a supernumerary physician in ordinary, with a promise that he should be placed on the royal establishment at the first vacancy. He was afterwards made physician to Charles the First; and attended his majesty at the battle of Edgehill, and thence to Oxford, where he was incorporated doctor in physic. Soon after, by the king's particular recommendation, he was elected warden of Merton college in that university ; but the power of the parliament prevailing, he was obliged to relinquish this office, and retired to the neighbourhood of London.

In 1651, he published a very valuable book on the Generation of Animals ; but being unacceptable to the parliamentary party for his adherence to Charles, his house was plundered of all the furniture, and all his manuscripts were carried off, and irrecoverably lost.

Next year, however, having lived to silence envy, and to make opposition ashamed of showing its face, a statue was erected to his honour by the College of Physicians : and two years afterwards he was chosen a president of that body, in his absence. This distinction he declined with due acknowledgments, on account of his age and increasing infirmities ; but as a testimony of his gratitude, having no children, he made the college his heirs, and settled his whole paternal estate upon them. He had previously built a room for them to assemble in, and fitted up a library ; and now he instituted an annual commemoration of benefactors, with a proper salary ; and attended the first in person. The Harveian oration still continues to be delivered ; and the aspiring and ingenious physician who is appointed to pronounce it, has thus an honourable opportunity of showing his taste, his learning, his skill, or his discoveries, before the most competent judges of his art.

During the latter part of his life Harvey became a

victim to the gout ; and resigned his breath with general admiration and regret, on the 3d of June, 1657. He was buried at Hempstead in Essex, where a monument was erected to his memory.

Besides an eminent skill in every branch of science, more immediately connected with his profession, he was well versed in general literature. He was laboriously studious, regular, and virtuous in his life ; and not only an excellent physician, but an excellent man. His modesty, his candour, and his piety, were equal to his knowledge ; and the more he penetrated into the wonders of nature, the more he was inclined to adore its divine Author. With regard to his grand discovery, the circulation of the blood, it was soon confessed to be founded on the solid basis of reason and experience, and can never be controverted again. Of what consequence it was in the art of medicine, may be inferred from this circumstance ; that it is perhaps impossible to define health and sickness in fewer words than by styling the former a free, and the latter an obstructed circulation.

ADMIRAL BLAKE.

Born 1599. — Died 1657.

From 41st Elizabeth to 10th Charles II.

NEVER was our national glory greater among foreigners than during the usurpation of Cromwell, and never was it more disgraced at home. Fanaticism and imposture pervaded all ranks ; the great mass of the people became the dupes of a few factious leaders : and the deep dissimulation of the Protector rendered hypocrisy fashionable, even among those who had sense enough to laugh at the silly tricks which were played to gain popularity.

But, as far as related to foreign concerns, Cromwell assumed an absolute tone, and spoke without disguise. He felt for his country's honour : he inspired his commanders with a portion of his own resolution and decisive conduct ; and sent them to conquer or to die. Awed by no rank, and proof against all intrigues, he dictated to other courts, rather than negotiated ; while the force of his genius, and the superiority of his arms, were confessed by nations, which durst not brave his power, nor insult his usurped authority.

Among the heroes whom the enthusiasm of the times awakened into life and action, admiral Blake has made his name immortal. High as our naval reputation had stood at former periods, he exalted it still more by his conduct and intrepidity ; and the brilliancy of his achievements cannot be eclipsed, even by the admirable displays of courage and prowess which our own times have witnessed.

Robert Blake was a native of Bridgewater in Somersetshire, and was initiated in classical learning at the grammar-school of that town. His father was a merchant, but what was the original destination of the son cannot now be known. It is certain that he was sent to the university of Oxford ; where he had studied first at Alban-hall, and afterwards at Wadham-college. In 1617, he was admitted to the degree of bachelor of arts ; but there is no further account of his progress or his views till six years after that time ; when he composed some verses on the death of Camden the antiquary, and soon after quitted the university.

Being early tinctured with republican sentiments, and prejudiced against the church establishment by the severity of his diocesan, Laud, who urged uniformity with impolitic zeal, Blake began to adopt puritanical principles ; and by the ingenuous bluntness of his manner soon recommended himself to that party, who procured his election to parliament for his native borough, in 1640.

When elected under such auspices, the line of conduct which he had to pursue was obvious. On the commence-

ment of the civil war, he declared for the parliament; but there exists no evidence of his distinction, either in the senate or the field, for some time. He seems at first to have been considered rather as an honest than a great man. The period had not yet arrived which was to develop his natural energies; and he might be said to resemble the useless gold in the mine, which requires a proper stamp to give it currency.

He did not long, however, remain under the cloud of obscurity; but the first display of his talents was in the military, not the naval line. Having the command of a small fort at Bristol in 1643, under colonel Fiennes, who occupied the city after prince Rupert had carried the place by capitulation, Blake continued to defend his own particular post, and killed some of the royalists. This exasperated the prince to such a degree, that he threatened to hang him: and was only diverted from his intention, by perceiving the palpable ignorance of Blake in the laws of war.

He afterwards served in Somersetshire; and, being generally beloved, was very instrumental in supporting the cause of parliament. By means of the good intelligence which he was able to procure, he surprised Taunton, in conjunction with sir Robert Pye; and was soon after appointed governor of that place, which was then one of the most important garrisons in the west.

In this situation, his talents and resolution soon became eminently conspicuous. The strictness of his discipline, and the endearing manner in which he conducted himself towards the townsmen, enabled him to hold out a long time against the royal forces: and when a breach was at last effected, and his adversaries got possession of a part of the town, Blake maintained the castle and its environs, with unshaken bravery and perseverance, till relief arrived. For this important service he was handsomely rewarded by parliament; and was now considered as a man qualified for hazardous enterprises, and trusts of still greater responsibility.

His attachment to the popular side, however, had not injured his sense of right and wrong. He declared against the legality of Charles's trial; and frequently professed, that he would as freely venture his life to save the king's, as ever he had done to serve the parliament. Whether this arose from the natural humanity of his disposition, or a reverence for royalty, is doubtful. His subsequent conduct, however, makes it probable that the former was the case; for after the king's death, he wholly agreed with the republican party; and, next to Cromwell, was justly considered as the ablest officer in the service.

Blake had hitherto signalized himself only by land; but his destiny led him to triumph on a new element. In 1649 he was appointed to command the fleet, in conjunction with Deane and Popham; and sailing for Ireland, blocked up prince Rupert, in Kinsale harbour. That gallant officer despairing of relief by sea, and finding Cromwell ready to possess the town by land, took the desperate resolution of forcing his way through Blake's squadron, which he effected with the loss of three ships.

The royal fleet steered for Lisbon, where it was protected by the king of Portugal; but Blake soon after coming up, on attempting to enter the port, was fired upon from the castle. Immediately dropping anchor, he sent to enquire the cause of this hostility: but not receiving a satisfactory answer, he boldly sailed up the river within two miles of prince Rupert's fleet, and solicited permission from on shore to attack it. This being refused, Blake took five richly-laden Brazil ships; and informed his Portuguese majesty, that unless he ordered prince Rupert to depart, he would himself seize the remainder of the fleet from America.

Some time after, the prince, endeavouring to escape, was driven back by Blake; who now took the Portuguese ships without reserve, and dispatched several of them to England. In October, 1650, he fell in with a fleet of twenty-three sail from Brazil; of which he sunk the

admiral's ship, and took the vice-admiral, with eleven vessels richly laden.

Resolving now to return home with his booty, or perhaps withdrawing from Lisbon, that prince Rupert might be drawn from his retreat, he met two French men-of-war which were in search of the English royal fleet, and captured one of them, reported to be worth a million sterling.

By this time prince Rupert had got into Carthage. Blake, being apprised of this, hastened thither, and requested the governor to permit him to attack his enemy. The governor hesitated till he could obtain instructions from his court, and in the mean time prince Rupert escaped to Malaga. The vigilant Blake immediately came up with him; when, disdaining to hesitate, he attacked him in the port; and burnt or destroyed his whole fleet, with the exception of only two ships.

Having achieved this service, he returned to Plymouth, received the thanks of the parliament, and was appointed warden of the cinque ports.

In the following summer he reduced the Scilly islands, which had held out for the king; and then, sailing for Guernsey, with some difficulty added that island to the power of the parliament.

On the breaking out of the Dutch war, he was constituted sole admiral. In this contest, the greatest commanders and best equipped ships that any age had produced were engaged on each side; and the dominion of the sea was the splendid object for which both fought. Blake engaged the celebrated Van Tromp, with such bravery, though far inferior in force, that he compelled him to retreat. This action, which was commenced by the Dutch, and in which Blake singly bore the greatest weight of the battle for four hours, was one of the most severe and desperate in the annals of naval history, though indecisive in its consequences.

The advantage, however, rested with the English, and the States of Holland seemed inclined for peace; but the

terms on which it was offered were so exorbitant, that hostilities were renewed with fresh vigour. In several partial conflicts, Blake obtained fresh laurels, and diminished the strength of the enemy: but the Dutch, under their illustrious commander, still brought forward fresh armaments; and the English fleet, being in want of provisions, were at length compelled to return to the Downs.

Van Tromp, with eighty men of war, resolved to attack Blake in this situation. The English had not above half that number of ships; yet they maintained the action with undiminished resolution, from two in the morning till six in the evening. At last Blake, for the first and only time, was obliged to retire from the enemy with loss, and to take shelter in the Thames.

The Dutch had also suffered very considerably; but so elated was Van Tromp with his success, that he sailed through the Channel with a broom at the mast-head, to signify that he meant to sweep the sea from the English. This boast was of no long duration. The English admiral, being reinforced, attacked him with far inferior numbers; and, though severely wounded, continued the engagement till night, and compelled the Dutch to retire with the loss of six ships. Next day the engagement was renewed, to the fresh disadvantage of Tromp, who continued retreating towards the French coast. Night once more suspended the fury of Blake; but on the third morning the contest recommenced, and the Dutch were obliged to secure themselves from final ruin, by running close into Dunkirk and Calais. In this hard-fought battle, which lasted for three successive days, the Dutch lost eleven ships of war, thirty merchantmen, and fifteen hundred sailors. On the part of the English, only one ship was lost, but the loss of men was nearly equal.

Such a series of victories obtained by a man not originally bred to the sea, is almost unparalleled, and must convey a very high idea of Blake's superior bravery and judgment. Not long after, Cromwell assumed the supreme power; and the Dutch flattered themselves that

such an usurpation would alienate the affections of the English officers, and leave the nation an easy prey to attack. The sentiments of Blake on this occasion show the sense he entertained of his duty; "It is not for us," said he, "to mind state affairs, but to keep foreigners from fooling us." This patriotic maxim is applicable at all times; and will generally be found to actuate the brave, whatever changes a government may undergo.

Towards the end of the month of April, 1653, Blake, having collected a hundred ships of war, stood over to the coast of Holland; and forced the Dutch to take shelter in the Texel. Here they were blocked up for some time; but on the 3d of June an engagement took place, which was continued the succeeding day, when the English obtained a complete victory; and the whole Dutch fleet must either have been taken or sunk, had they not sought shelter on the sands of Calais.

In the succeeding autumn, Blake took his seat in parliament, and received the solemn thanks of the house, and not long after was appointed one of the lords of the Admiralty. In November of the following year, Cromwell dispatched him with a strong fleet into the Mediterranean, with the ample commission to protect the English flag from every insult. The Algerines, intimidated by his name, sought his friendship by every conciliatory measure; but the dey of Tunis sent him, a haughty answer, and defied his power. Blake, as was customary with him when in a passion, began to curl his whiskers: and after a short consultation with his officers, sailed into the bay of Port Ferino, silenced the guns of the castle, and then manning his boats, burnt all the shipping, with a very trivial loss on his own part.

His name had long been formidable in Europe; but now it spread terror over Africa; the piratical states courted his forbearance with marks of servility; while the Italian princes sent magnificent embassies to congratulate Cromwell, on the services thus rendered by Blake to Christendom in general.

The war with Spain by this time growing violent, our illustrious commander exerted his utmost efforts to ruin the maritime force of that nation in Europe, as Penn had done in the West Indies. But his health was no longer equal to the energy of his mind, and he requested an associate in the command ; which was granted him in the appointment of general Montague to be joint-admiral of the fleet. To Blake alone, however, did the nation and the navy look up for protection and glory ; he was one of those highly-favoured men whom Fortune, in her capricious freaks, never forsook : his most daring attempts were sanctioned by her smiles, and his fame continually increased to the last.

Being stationed near the Straits of Gibraltar, he alternately annoyed the shipping and the ports of Spain. His activity was displayed every where ; and his intelligence enabled him to seize all probable opportunities of glory or of gain. While employed in blocking up the harbour of Cadiz, he learnt that the Spanish plate-fleet had put into the bay of Santa Cruz, in the island of Teneriffe. Determined to attack it, he sailed thither with twenty-five men-of-war ; and on the 20th of April, 1657, arrived off the bay, where he saw nineteen stout ships disposed in the form of a crescent. Near the mouth of the harbour stood a castle, furnished with very heavy ordnance ; besides which, the bay was lined by strong forts, and a chain of communication was preserved by files of musketeers. Every other precaution was taken by the Spanish admiral, don Diego Diagues, that military experience could suggest ; though rather to prevent a surprise, than in expectation of an open attack.

The captain of a Dutch ship, however, which then lay in the bay, entertained different sentiments in this last respect, and rightly understood the character of Blake. He requested leave to depart ; and observed to the admiral, " I am very sure Blake will soon be among you." " Get you gone, if you wish it ; let Blake come if he dares," was the reply of the haughty Spaniard.

The English admiral did not want a challenge to fight. Having instantly made preparations for the engagement, a squadron of ships was selected from the whole fleet to make the first onset, headed by captain Stayner, in the *Speaker* frigate; who no sooner received his orders, than he flew with his canvas wings into the bay, and fell upon the Spanish ships, without appearing to regard the heavy fire from the forts. Blake followed him with rapidity; and stationing some of his largest ships to pour broadsides into the castle and forts, these played their part so well, that in a short time the Spaniards found their situation untenable.

Meanwhile the admiral, in conjunction with Stayner, attacked the ships with such impetuosity, that after a contest of a few hours the Spaniards were fairly beaten from them, and they were left to the mercy of the captors. But, with all his exertions, Blake found it impossible to carry them off, and therefore ordered his men to burn them; which was so effectually executed, that they were all reduced to ashes except two, which sunk.

Blake now began to reflect on his own situation. The wind blew so strong into the bay, that many of the best officers despaired of getting out; and as they lay under the fire of the castle and forts, in a few hours more they must have been battered to pieces, and the fortune of the day reversed.

What all the skill and bravery of Blake could not effect, Providence did for him. The wind suddenly shifted to another quarter, and carried them to the open sea, before the Spaniards could recover from their consternation at this daring and decisive action, which is one of the most remarkable ever performed. "It was so miraculous," says lord Clarendon, "that all men who knew the place, wondered how any sober man, with what courage soever endowed, would ever have undertaken it, and they could hardly persuade themselves to believe what they had done; whilst the Spaniards comforted themselves with

the reflection, that they were devils, and not men, who had accomplished such things."

No sooner was the news of this signal victory spread abroad, than a public thanksgiving was ordered on the occasion; and a diamond ring was voted to Blake by Cromwell's parliament, with demonstrations of gratitude and respect to all the fleet.

The admiral resumed his former station on the coast of Spain; but his ships becoming foul from long use, and he himself falling into a dangerous disorder, which was aggravated by a sea-life, and the want of those refreshments which are only to be found on shore, he resolved to return home. Finding his constitution rapidly giving way to a complication of the dropsy and scurvy, the love of his native soil seems to have been uppermost in his mind. He hastened his voyage, that he might at least resign his breath in a country which was dear to him by every tie that can bind a good man, and which he had aggrandized by his valour. In this wish alone was fortune unpropitious to him. He frequently enquired for land, but he lived to see it only; for he expired as the fleet was entering Plymouth, on the 17th of August, 1657, in the fifty-eighth year of his age.

Cromwell ordered him a pompous funeral at the public expense; but the tears and regret of his countrymen were the most honourable eulogy on his memory. Never was any man, who had devoted himself to an usurper, so much respected by those of opposite principles. Disinterested, generous, and liberal; ambitious only of true glory, and terrible only to the enemies of his country; he forms one of the most perfect characters of that age, and the least stained with any vice or meanness. Clarendon observes, that he was the first man who brought ships to despise castles on shore; which had hitherto been thought very formidable, but were proved by him to be more alarming than really dangerous. He was also the first who infused such resolution into seamen, as to make them attempt whatever was possible; and the first who taught

them to fight, either in fire or water. In short, he was the Nelson and the Sidney Smith of his day ; and proved that *to dare*, is generally to command success. Few things indeed are impracticable to him who has a well-grounded confidence in his own powers ; and who is not diverted from his object by any seeming difficulties, nor lured from perseverance, by the blandishments of ease.

After the Restoration, the remains of Blake were, by the express command of Charles the Second, removed from the vault wherein they had been deposited in Westminster-abbey, and ignobly thrown with others into a pit in St. Margaret's church-yard ; " in which place," says one of his biographers, " they now remain ; without any other monument than that reared by his valour, which time itself can hardly efface."

EDWARD HYDE;

EARL OF CLARENDON, AND LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR
OF ENGLAND.

Born 1608. — Died 1674.

From 5th James I., to 25th Charles II.

To preserve integrity of conduct, and consistency of principle, amidst public convulsions, when force generally sets right at defiance ; to adhere to what is just and honourable, regardless of what is expedient, or profitable ; is the character of a great and a good man. How far and in what respects lord chancellor Clarendon deserves this praise, will be seen from a brief survey of his life.

This celebrated statesman, lawyer, and historiographer, was descended from an ancient family in Cheshire ; and was the third son of a gentleman possessed of a small fortune, who resided at Denton, near Hindon, in Wilts,

where the future chancellor was born. With no prospects of a patrimony, nor protected by great alliances, he had his fortune to make by his own merit; and in the history of men it may be remarked, that for one who has increased the original honours of his family, and enlarged his hereditary possessions, thousands have pursued a retrograde course, and diminished what they felt no necessity to advance. Hence the aspiring and virtuous mind, ungifted by fortune, may draw the most favourable arguments for hope and perseverance: and, when it views the elevation which others have reached, may learn to acquiesce in the toil which is requisite to gain the ascent. Edward Hyde received a private education, suitable to the circumstances of his family, under the vicar of the parish in which he was born; but it may be readily concluded, that he must have been an apt scholar and displayed early talents, as he was entered of Magdalen-hall, Oxford, when just turned of thirteen. Here he took the degree of bachelor of arts; and having improved his natural endowments by classical learning, it seems that the height of his ambition at that time was to obtain a fellowship in Exeter-college; but being disappointed in his views, he removed to the Middle Temple. How often is Providence as kind in what it denies, as in what it grants! Had Hyde become the fellow of a college, it is probable that he might have passed his days in inglorious ease, and left no traces of his name; but having once entered on the profession of the law, he found an opportunity for the exercise of his talents, and the display of his loyalty and patriotism.

He pursued his studies in the Temple for several years with increasing reputation; and when his society determined to give a public testimony of their hatred to the indecent principles advanced by Prynne in his work, entitled *Histriomastix*, he was appointed one among the managers of a masque presented on that occasion before king Charles and his queen at Whitehall, in 1634. But though Hyde was a friend to constitutional royalty, he strenuously opposed every illegal stretch of prerogative:

and reprobated the subserviency of the judges to advance the kingly power, at the expense of national liberty. A remarkable incident is said to have contributed to fix the steadiness of his principles, when he first began to acquire some eminence in his profession:—As he was walking one day with his father in the fields round his native place, the old gentleman in the course of conversation happened to remark, that lawyers were apt to stretch the prerogative too far, and injure liberty; and concluded with earnestly requesting him, if it should be his fortune to rise in his profession, never to sacrifice the laws or liberties of his country to private views or political intrigues. Having repeated this advice in the most impressive manner, he immediately fell into a fit of apoplexy, which carried him off, in a few hours afterwards. The filial duty of Hyde conspired with his own judgment to make this expostulation the rule of his future life, and he died in observing it.

For some years, he appeared to have confined himself wholly to the duties of his profession, without any ambition of being distinguished as a politician; but having been elected to parliament in 1640 for Wooton Bassett, he soon attracted notice by his eloquence, and the resolution and zeal with which he defended his country's rights.

This parliament was of short duration; but another having been called, Mr. Hyde was elected for Saltash in Cornwall; and the promises which he had already given of a patriotic character were fully confirmed. He was frequently appointed chairman of several important committees; and with all the warmth of oratory, declaimed against the usurpations of the crown and the violation of the constitution, particularly in the article of ship-money.

But Hyde was not one of those factious statesmen who, having detected errors in the exercise of government, overlook all its beauties. He was as vigilant to prevent innovations in the constitution, as encroachments on the liberty of the subject. When it was moved to deprive the bishops of their vote, he represented that from the

earliest institution of parliaments they had been a part of it; and that they were the legitimate representation of the whole body of the clergy, whose rights could not be wrested from them without the grossest injustice. On this great point, he differed from his friend lord Falkland, with whom he kept up the closest intimacy; and their enemies hoped that their separation would ensue; but in this they were deceived. Each only claimed the privilege of speaking his own sentiments on particular occasions; in essential articles they were united.

When the earl of Strafford was impeached of high-treason, Mr. Hyde was appointed one of the committee to draw up the charges against him; but divesting himself of passion and prejudice, and foreseeing consequences which escaped the eye of more intemperate men, he considered him as guilty only of misdemeanours, and disclaimed any concern in the proceedings by attainder. In short, he was one of those glorious patriots who act on independent principles; who scorn to oppose government from resentment, or to sanction its measures from venal motives. As soon, therefore, as he perceived that the commons were actuated by a spirit of hostility to the constitution, and began to assume the executive power which had been legitimately vested in other hands, he abandoned them to their follies and their crimes, and repaired to the king at York; who conferred upon him the honour of knighthood, and made him chancellor of the exchequer.

From this time he was a firm adherent to his royal master, through all the vicissitudes of his fortune. Wisely confining his talents, however, to their proper sphere, he counselled rather than acted; and is little noticed during the intestine commotions, till the treaty of Uxbridge was set on foot; when he proved himself, in the character of commissioner, a warm and judicious advocate for the king's unalienable rights.

All his exertions proving abortive, and the civil war being renewed, sir Edward Hyde was appointed to attend the prince of Wales in the West, where he strove to main-

tain his master's interest and to retrieve his affairs ; but matters becoming worse and worse, he embarked from Pendennis-castle for Jersey, in expectation of finding prince Charles at that place. His royal highness, however, having been removed to Paris, sir Edward was so provoked at this impolitic and precipitate step, that he refused to attend him thither ; and spent two years and upwards in Jersey, employed in the composition of his immortal work, the History of the Rebellion, which he undertook with the king's particular approbation and encouragement.

In May 1648 he received a letter from queen Henrietta; requesting him, in his majesty's name, to give his personal attendance on the prince of Wales, by a certain day, at Paris. Some circumstances occurred to render this impossible ; but he joined him soon after at the Hague, in company with lord Cottington.

His various services to the young prince (afterwards Charles the Second) during his exile, it is unnecessary to mention; they are sufficiently conspicuous in the history of our country. His activity in promoting the Restoration ; the pure and disinterested attachment which he showed to him under the most forlorn circumstances, and sometimes amidst obloquy and ingratitude, must rank him very high in our esteem. At the urgent solicitation of Charles, he accepted the great seal; and in the character of lord chancellor transacted almost the whole business of that prince's little court, carried on negotiations, and paved the way for his return to the throne of his ancestors.

No sooner was Charles happily restored, than he confirmed sir Edward Hyde in his office of lord-high-chancellor, and placed the most unlimited confidence in his wisdom and integrity. Soon afterwards he was elected chancellor of the university of Oxford, and created a peer by the title of baron Hyde ; and next year was raised to the dignity of viscount Cornbury, and earl of Clarendon.

Great as the honours and distinctions were with which

he was invested, his merit adorned them all. His prudence, his justice, and his moderation, had been eminently conspicuous on the Restoration, in adjusting the boundaries between royal prerogative and national liberty. He reconciled many clashing interests; and from confusion had reduced much to order. He promoted an act of indemnity to calm the fears of the republicans, and an act of uniformity to satisfy the royalists.

But still his situation was far from being enviable. The gay and dissolute Charles was liberal in professions, but generally referred to his chancellor for their fulfilment. Clarendon had it not in his power to satisfy every just claim on royal munificence, much less to ratify heedless promises. Every person, however, who met with a gracious smile from the king, and a reluctant compliance from the chancellor, considered him as an enemy: and when it was discovered that his daughter had been clandestinely married to the duke of York, though he was himself perfectly innocent in this respect, the popular odium against him was dangerously inflamed; and his best actions were misconstrued as the means of aggrandizing his own family. The king assured him, however, of his continued favour and esteem; but the friendship of Charles was as fleeting as his enmity: with strong sense, and a cultivated understanding, he gave himself up to pleasure and mirth; and was seldom roused to reflection, except when his money ran short, or the associates of his indiscretions were clamorous for his bounty.

The murmurs which had been long repressed, or vented in private, at length found a proclaimer in the earl of Bristol, who in 1633 exhibited articles of impeachment against lord Clarendon, in the house of peers. Between these two noblemen there had subsisted a close and intimate friendship both in prosperous and adverse fortune, and it was vainly thought to have been indissoluble; but the chancellor, from motives of duty, having refused a favour to a court lady whom Bristol patronised, he henceforward thought of nothing but malice and revenge.

It is humiliating to reflect how frail are the ties that bind men, how fleeting are our dearest delights !

Friends now fast-sworn,
Whose double bosoms seem to wear one heart ;
Who twine, as 'twere in love
Inseparable ; shall within this hour,
On a dissension of a doit, break out
To bitterest enmity.

SHAKESPEARE.

To refuse the last favour in the chain of obligations, is frequently to cancel all the preceding. The earl of Bristol was more inveterate against Clarendon, for a trifling refusal in regard to a worthless woman, than if they had never been friends : but his resentment overshot its mark, and the charges which he alleged evidently partook more of private revenge than a love of public justice.

Clarendon was honourably acquitted, but his enemies did not wholly lose their aim. The purest human virtue, when assayed to the last, will discover some dross ; and some declarations which he had made, paved the way to his future disgrace. To the king, whose dissolute and licentious course of life he freely censured, he daily became less acceptable ; and by the nation he was deemed blameable, for faults which he had not the power to correct. Intrigues were formed against him by the duke of Buckingham and others ; and Charles, wearied with the importunity of flatterers, and the bold remonstrances of Clarendon, demanded the seals from him in August 1667 ; which were no sooner delivered up than the commons renewed the impeachment against him, and at the bar of the house of lords accused him of treason and other high crimes and misdemeanours.

A variety of circumstances had conspired to render Clarendon unpopular. His pacific disposition amidst the insults of the Dutch ; his advising the sale of Dunkirk, which perhaps was the truest policy : his opposition to the bill for liberty of conscience ; and his vanity in building a splendid palace, during times of public distress from the plague and the fire of London, were all turned to his

ntage. Yet the odium excited against him was in very unjust. He had ever steered a middle course in prerogative and national liberty; and the people highly indebted to him for imposing a check on the crown by granting only such a revenue as obliged the crown to have some dependence on parliament. Had the policy of others been followed, Charles might have reigned without control, by the profusion of that establishment which had been proposed for his use.

The people seldom think for themselves, and are more easily guided, by the counsels of the intriguing than the wise. Clarendon saw that his credit was lost, and his fortune fixed. He drew up, however, a masterly defence; and threw the whole blame that had been imputed to him on those who better deserved it: but not content to the effect of this among judges already prejudiced against him, he went into voluntary exile, from which he never returned.

He chose France for the place of his retirement: but intrigues had already been tampering with that court; and sooner had he reached Calais, than he received orders to quit the kingdom. Being seized with a violent rheumatic gout, he petitioned for time; and during the interval of his recovery, the sentiments of the French suddenly changing, he was indulged with permission to take up his residence there. At last he settled at Rouen, in Normandy, where he died in 1674; when his body was sent to England, and buried in Henry the Seventh's chapel, in Westminster-abbey.

His political sagacity, and genuine patriotism, lord Clarendon will bear a comparison with the most celebrated statesmen. He brought the vessel of state into port after it had been tossed by one of the longest and most violent storms that this country had ever experienced; and on his fidelity the sovereign might repose entire confidence; while the people, under all the circumstances of his situation, could have little ground for accusation. Had he been more inclined to sacrifice

their interests, he would have been more acceptable to the king; and on the other hand, had he been less attached to his majesty, his popularity would have remained to the last. But by pursuing the line of duty and conscience, he was finally a favourite with neither; his temper was too grave for the volatile Charles, and his integrity too inflexible for his debauched courtiers. It is said that the duke of Buckingham in particular, who possessed the talent for ridicule in a high degree, used to entertain the king with mimicking the solemn pace and the sententious wisdom of the chancellor; and to render him ungracious, it was not unusual for the courtiers who dared to take such liberties, to point out Clarendon to the king, saying at the same time, "There goes your schoolmaster." Charles had not gratitude enough to appreciate his services as they deserved; and he suffered himself to be prejudiced against a man, who adhered to him in the worst times, by the silly tricks of worthless flatterers. Yet it must be allowed that Clarendon was little qualified to steer his way through the obliquities of a depraved court; he could not disguise his abhorrence of vice, nor flatter foibles which he thought might be dangerous. He was religious from conviction; and his attachment to the church of England was manifested in his whole conduct. When his daughter, wife of the duke of York (afterwards James the Second), was induced to embrace the religion of the Romish church, he wrote in the most affectionate and earnest terms to dissuade her from this resolution, and his arguments displayed considerable skill in polemical divinity. But she was biassed by her deluded husband and crafty priests; and died in that faith, to the sincere and deep sorrow of her unhappy father.

As a writer, the fame of Clarendon is secure in the hands of the public, which has highly estimated his labours. The history of the Rebellion will last as long as English literature itself. Though not exempt from prejudice, and little graced by the ornaments of modern

e and composition, it shows a depth of research, a sterly delineation of character, and a deduction of acts from their remotest causes, that must charm the sible, and amuse the idle, to the latest periods of e. From his works, the politician may glean know-ge; and private men gather maxims for the regulation their conduct, in almost every situation into which y can be thrown.

JOHN MILTON.

Born 1608. — Died 1674.

From 5th James I. to 25th Charles II.

Three poets, in three distant ages born,
Greece, Italy, and England, did adorn:
The first in loftiness of thought surpass'd;
The next in majesty; in both the last:
The force of Nature could no further go;
To make a third, she join'd the former two.

those pointed and nervous lines of Dryden, the characters of the three great epic poets, Homer, Virgil, and lton, are well discriminated. If the palm is given to e latter, it is perhaps justly. The dignity and subli-ty of the subject on which Milton wrote, raised him ove all comparison; and the vigour of his genius sup-ported the weight which he had assumed. Whoever a read Milton without admiration, must be destitute not ly of moral feeling, but of genuine taste; his heart is t formed to relish intellectual pleasures, his soul is not ed for the perception of what is beautiful or sublime.

This illustrious poet was descended from an ancient nily which had been long seated at Milton, near ame, in Oxfordshire; but having engaged in the un-ppy quarrels between the houses of York and Lancas-; which deluged England in blood, they had the mis-tune to forfeit their principal estate. His grand-

father, a zealous papist, enjoyed however an appointment in the forest of Shotover, in that neighbourhood : but his father, being disinherited for embracing the protestant faith, settled in London, as a scrivener ; and in Bread-street there, John Milton his eldest son, was born in 1608.

After receiving a domestic education for some time, under a worthy clergyman, whose fame is perpetuated in his pupil's first essays, he was removed to St. Paul's school, where by indefatigable application he made an extraordinary progress in classical learning. From his twelfth year he devoted the greatest part of the night to study, and laid the foundation of a disorder which afterwards terminated in total blindness.

It may be remarked, that few have made a distinguished figure in the literary career, who have not evinced an early predilection for books. The boy who performs the prescribed task, who attends to all the minute parts of his duty, may escape censure, and may even gain applause ; but he will never reach the exalted heights of the voluntary student, who seeks for learning, from the innate love which he bears it. To obtain excellence in whatever we attempt, sacrifices must be made which cannot be directed ; and an enthusiasm must inspire us to surmount difficulties, which the lukewarm and the indolent will fear to encounter. Had the boyish Milton spent his leisure hours, as he might have done without blame, in the common amusements of his years, it is probable that we should never have heard of his *Paradise Lost*. Yet while it is commendable to incite to youthful application by the prospect of virtuous fame, it is no less necessary to caution, against injuring the springs of life by too intense study. Occasional relaxation is of service both to the body and the mind : the welfare of the latter depends much on that of the former, and all our comforts certainly flow from health.

In his sixteenth year, young Milton was admitted of Christ's College, Cambridge. Being already a proficient

in classical learning, his academic exercises must have appeared extremely light: it is certain that he had composed some beautiful Latin poems before he removed to the university; and the greatest part of his compositions in that language were produced, during the period which he continued there. He had formed his taste on the purest models of antiquity, and was considered as the first Englishman who wrote with classical elegance. But he did not confine himself to Latin poetry only; in the studious retirements of Cambridge, he conceived the first rude idea of the work which will render his name immortal.

After taking the degree of master of arts, he quitted the university; and retired to Horton, near Colnbrook, where his father then resided, on a competent fortune, gained in the successful practice of his vocation. It seems that the old gentleman had destined him for the church: but Milton had early imbibed notions unfavourable to the national establishment; and his father, feeling for the conscientious scruples of the son, did not wish to press his compliance. The praise of consistency, those who are the most inimical to the political and religious principles of our poet cannot deny him; and so far he is entitled to our esteem.

In his retirement at Horton, he prosecuted his studies with unparalleled assiduity and success. He read over all the Greek and Latin classical writers; and made them in every instance subservient to his love for poetry. During this period, he produced his celebrated masque of *Comus*; a work in which imagery, pathos, and a fervid but chaste language, decorate every page. Though less adapted for the stage, it will never cease, while genuine taste remains, to please in the closet.

His next production was *Lycidas*; a delightful monody, occasioned by the death of an amiable young gentleman, the son of sir John King, secretary for Ireland, who was lost in his passage to that country. Between him and Milton an intimate friendship had been contracted at the

university; and he bewails the lacerated ties of youthful affection, in terms as honourable to the man as to the poet. It is supposed that about this time too he composed those exquisite poems entitled *L'Allegro*, and *Il Penseroso*; which, had he left nothing else, would have transmitted his name to immortality.

His reputation as a poet had now attracted the regard of the public, and procured him some valuable private friendships; and after spending five years at Horton, with occasional visits to the metropolis, on the death of his mother he obtained his father's permission to travel.

Having procured proper recommendations and introductions, he left England in 1638, and first visited Paris, where he was introduced to the celebrated Grotius; then hastening into Italy, he applied himself to the study of the language and literature of that country with the most brilliant success. The great and the learned treated him with distinguished attention; and notwithstanding his avowed principles, which he was too honest to disguise, cardinal Barberini, afterwards pope Urban the Eighth, showed him some uncommon marks of personal respect.

From Rome he proceeded to Naples; where the marquis of Villa, who had been the patron of Tasso, paid him the homage due to his illustrious attainments; and in return, was complimented with the most grateful effusions of his elegant pen. In other parts of Italy he was equally honoured and caressed, by every one distinguished for rank, urbanity, or talents. The philosopher Galileo, who was then a prisoner in the Inquisition, for daring to discover and publish more of the celestial motions than his ignorant and bigoted judges could conceive, received a visit of respect from Milton, among other men of extraordinary acquirements in science and literature.

After having spent two years in continental travels, which he originally designed to extend to Sicily and Greece, news arrived of the commotions in his native country: and judging it criminal to remain a distant or an indifferent spectator of scenes which involved all that

was dear to Englishmen, he hastened his return, and took a house in Aldersgate-street, London; where he employed his time in superintending the education of a few young gentlemen, who lodged and boarded under his roof. How well he was qualified for this important, though often ill-rewarded office, must be evident to every unprejudiced mind. His success indeed was answerable to his capacity; and his Treatise on Education shows the plan of scholastic institution which he pursued. His pen, however, was occasionally employed in attacking the very foundation of church government, and in exalting the puritanical party, to which he had devoted himself with unshaken adherence.

Having reached his thirty-fifth year, he married Mary, the daughter of Richard Powell, esq.; but his lady, on some disagreement, left him soon after. This so provoked Milton, that he paid his addresses to another, and wrote with much acrimony against the existing laws of marriage; boldly maintaining that unfitness or contrariety of dispositions, or whatever was repugnant to the endearments of conjugal society, was as solid a claim to a divorce as any other. His wife however saw her folly, and retrieved her error, before it was too late. In an unexpected interview, contrived by some benevolent and judicious friends, she threw herself at his feet, and implored his forgiveness. Milton was not proof against a woman's tears, particularly those of one whom he so lately loved with an ardent affection:

——— Soon his heart relented

T'wards her, his wife so late, and sole delight,
Now at his feet, submissive in distress.

PARADISE LOST.

The civil war now raging with the greatest fury, Milton was induced, by party zeal, to suspend the pursuits of elegant literature, and to enter into political disquisition. But though his talents gave him a temporary reputation in this career, and indeed spread his fame all over Europe,

his labours of this kind are now less celebrated ; while his celebrity as a poet has been continually increasing, and will increase, till time shall be no more. The political work which gained him the most extensive reputation, was his *Defensio pro Populo Anglicano*, or " Defence of the People of England ;" in answer to Salmasius, who had composed a tract entitled *Defensio Regis*, or " Defence of the King." The asperity with which Milton wrote, is said to have broken the heart of his rival ; but though our poet was rewarded with a thousand pounds for this piece of service, and made Latin secretary to Cromwell, he had little reason to triumph in his success. By too intense application, a disorder which had long affected his sight now terminated in total blindness. About this period, too, he lost his wife, who left him three daughters ; and soon marrying another, in little more than a year, he became a second time a widower.

After Cromwell had established his usurpation on the ruins of the monarchy, Milton, who seems to have been as much inimical to ancient institutions of every sort as averse to arbitrary power, awed perhaps into silence by fear, or biassed by gratitude, acquiesced in the change that took place, and resumed his studies ; but produced nothing more that deserves to be remembered, till after the Restoration.

At that era, he knew that the active part which he had taken would expose him to the most imminent danger ; and prudently absconded, till matters took another turn, and the fate of the most violent partisans of rebellion and usurpation had been decided. The abilities and the virtues of Milton, raised him friends on this emergency. By the interest of sir William Davenant, whose life he had formerly saved, he received the benefit of the act of amnesty ; only his political writings were ordered to be burnt, by the hands of the common hangman. It is gratifying to such as venerate the name of Milton to reflect, that in his highest exaltation he was moderate in his actions who differed from him in politics, and that

his memory is stained by nothing cruel or arbitrary. In him it was exemplified,

— ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes

Emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros :

“ that an intimate acquaintance with the liberal arts softens the manners, nor suffers them to be ferocious.” He met with a recompense in the attachment of friends, at a crisis of peculiar danger ; and his example proves the wisdom of lenity and forbearance, amidst the distractions of political fury.

Milton was now in the fifty-second year of his age, deprived of sight, borne down by infirmities, and depressed by the vicissitudes of his fortune ; yet the vigour of his mind enabled him to rise, with elastic force, over this accumulation of ills. He appeared again in public ; entered the third time into the marriage state, with a Miss Minshul, a native of Cheshire ; and, it is said, refused the place of Latin secretary to the king, notwithstanding the most pressing importunities of his new wife. When she urged him to comply with the times, and accept the royal offer, his answer is said to have been as follows : “ You are in the right, my dear ; like other women, you are ambitious to ride in your coach : while my whole aim is to live and die an honest man.”

Soon after this third marriage, Milton removed to a house in Artillery-walk, leading to Bunhill-fields, where he resided till his death, except during the plague in 1665. On that awful calamity, he retired with his family to Chalfont St. Giles's, in Buckinghamshire ; where he put the last hand to his *Paradise Lost*, a work that had occupied his thoughts for a long series of years. It is said that Milton sometimes was incapable of producing a single line, and at other seasons, his “ unpremeditated verse” flowed with a felicity resembling inspiration. On those occasions, he immediately called his daughter, who acted as his amanuensis ; and would dictate a considerable number of lines in a breath, which he afterwards polished and reduced. About the vernal and autumnal equinox, his

poetical talent was said to be the most happy. Indeed few literary persons are insensible, that extremes of heat or cold are equally unfavourable to the exertions of the mind; few are unacquainted with periodical obscurations and brilliancies of genius.

After this immortal poem was ready for the press, it was nearly suppressed by the ignorance or malice of the licenser, who found or fancied treason in the following noble simile :

As when the sun new-risen
Looks through the horizontal misty air
Sharp of his beams; or from behind the moon,
In dim eclipse, disastrous twilight sheds
On half the nations, and with fear of change
Perplexes monarchs.

Having overcome this obstacle, Milton sold the copy-right for five pounds ready money, five pounds more when one thousand three hundred of the books should be disposed of, and the same sum on the publication of a second and a third edition. From this agreement Milton received no more than fifteen pounds; and his widow afterwards transferred every claim, for the poor additional sum of eight pounds !

Such was the first destiny of a work that constitutes the glory and the boast of English poetry ; and may be reckoned among the noblest efforts of human genius, in any age or country. But Milton wrote for immortality, and he has not lost his reward. Like the sun bursting from the horizon of vapours, his *Paradise Lost* gradually rose to the zenith ; and having long become stationary, has no decline to dread, unless worse than Gothic darkness should overspread the regions of taste.

About three years after the appearance of *Paradise Lost*, Milton produced his *Samson Agonistes*, a tragedy written on the purest Greek model, and *Paradise Regained*, which he is said to have preferred before his great work of *Paradise Lost* ; but if this was his real opinion, it only shows how incompetent an author is to decide on the merits of

his own productions. The *Paradise Regained*, we are told, originated from a hint suggested by one Elwood, a quaker ; who, on Milton's reading to him in manuscript his *Paradise Lost*, exclaimed : " You have now only to write *Paradise Found* : " but though it is a poem of considerable merit, and would have raised the reputation of any other man to an exalted degree, it was so wholly eclipsed by its sublime predecessor, that its merits are in a great measure obscured by the comparison. In fact, it resembles the lustre of the morning-star absorbed in the meridian blaze ; it is the *Odyssey* of Milton, and falls far short of what may be called his *Iliad*.

A life of indefatigable study, and which had been exposed to various vicissitudes, hastened that hour which neither the great nor the learned can escape. Milton had also been long afflicted with the gout and other infirmities, and was completely worn out. He died without a struggle, on the 10th of November, 1674, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. His remains were interred in the church of St. Giles, Cripplegate ; and his funeral was numerously and splendidly attended. A monument was, many years afterwards, erected to his memory in Westminster-abbey ; but a monument was needless to him whose fame fills the whole enlightened world.

Though imprudence is the general vice of poets, at least of those who vainly fancy that it is a proof of superior genius to spurn at little things, Milton, through his prudent economy, left behind him fifteen hundred pounds. We have therefore the consolation to reflect, that this illustrious bard was never in indigence, though he might be remote from affluence. His family, however, gradually sunk into the humbler spheres of life ; and his line is generally supposed to be now extinct.

Milton was of the middling stature, formed with the most perfect symmetry ; of a ruddy complexion, and light brown hair. In his youth, he was eminently beautiful, and so delicate, that at Cambridge he went by the appellation of " the lady of Christ's college." The marquis of

Villa gives a high idea of Milton's beauty of person, in a neat Latin epigram ; which has been thus translated :

So perfect thou in mind, in form, and face,
Thou'rt not of English, but angelic race.

Both his constitution and his taste led him to abstemiousness : the one was too weak to bear excesses, and the other too refined to indulge in them. In early youth he studied late at night, but afterwards completely altered his plan in this respect. In his occasional relaxations from literary pursuits, he amused himself with conversation and music, in which latter he was a proficient. After his blindness, he taught his daughters to read the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, without teaching them to understand these languages ; and thus made them auxiliaries in his studies.

His own learning was immense. He was a perfect master of Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Italian, and Spanish. He originally followed Spenser, Shakspeare, and Cowley, as his model ; but he afterwards formed a style of his own ; and though he has had many imitators, he has never yet found a rival.

His political principles were strictly republican ; yet England was much less a republic under Cromwell, than under the latter part of Charles the First. In fact, in almost every revolution that history records, honest men are the dupes of their own sincerity ; while some unprincipled demagogue artfully turns the popular phrensy to his own private interest or aggrandisement. In theology, Milton strongly inclined to arminianism ; yet towards the close of his life, he seems to have entered into communion with no religious sect ; and entertained only a certain philosophic religion of the mind, founded however on Christianity.

His demeanour was open and affable ; and his conversation easy, cheerful, and instructive. The promptness of his wit qualified him to shine on every occasion ; he was facetious, grave, or satirical, as the subject required ; his



Marvell



Garrick



Locke



Malborough

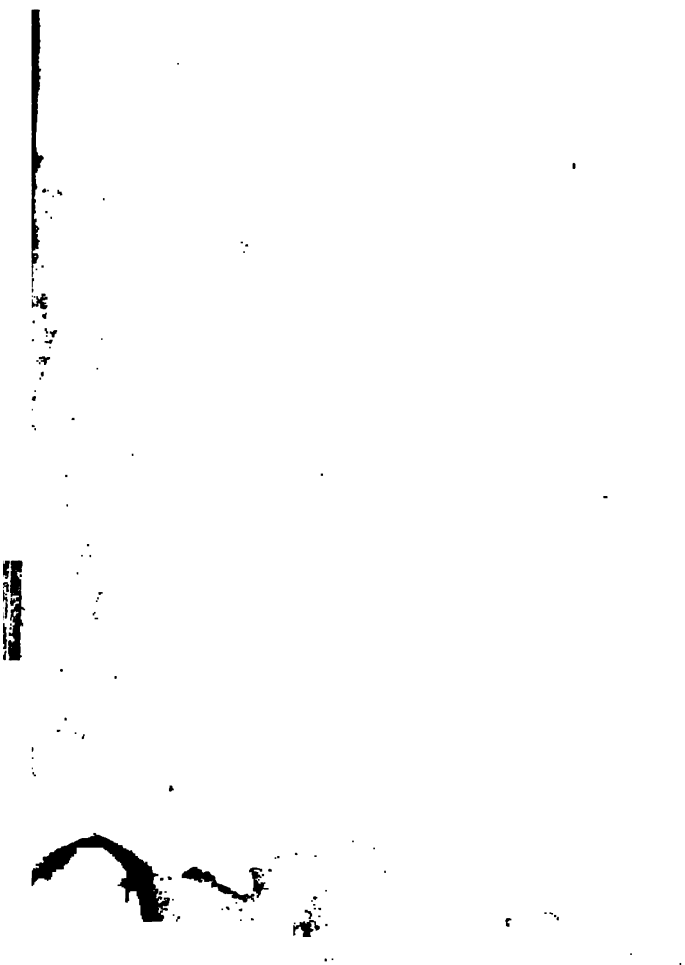


Newton



Milton





judgment was just and profound, and his reading almost as extensive as his genius. If he had faults and defects, (and who is exempt from them?) they were either lost or diminished in the brilliancy of his attainments.

His character as an epic poet is thus admirably summed up by Dr. Johnson:—"The highest praise of genius is original invention. Milton cannot be said to have contrived the structure of an epic poem, and must therefore yield to that vigour and amplitude of mind to which all generations must be indebted, for the art of poetical narration, for the texture of the fable, the variation of incidents, the interposition of dialogue, and all the stratagems that surprise and enchain attention. But of all the borrowers from Homer, Milton is perhaps the least indebted to him. He was naturally a thinker for himself, confident of his own abilities, and disdainful of help or hindrance; he did not refuse admission to the thoughts or images of his predecessors, but he did not seek them. From his contemporaries he neither courted nor received support: there is, in his writings, nothing by which the pride of other authors might be gratified, or favour gained: no exchange of praise, nor solicitation of support. His great works were performed under discountenance and in blindness: but difficulties vanished at his touch; he was born for whatever is arduous; and his work is not the greatest of heroic poems, only because it is not the first."

ANDREW MARVELL.

Born 1620. — Died 1678.

From 17th James I. to 29th Charles II.

A MAN who could preserve the most blameless simplicity of manners amidst the allurements of public life, and a

noble spirit of independence, under the occasional pressures of real want ; who would neither barter his conscience for a smile, nor sell his vote for gain ; who could render himself entirely beloved by his friends, and revered by those whose principles were diametrically opposite to his own, would in these days be regarded as a singular phenomenon, and infallibly must have possessed some extraordinary virtues and endowments.' Such was Andrew Marvell, the son of a minister and schoolmaster at Kingston-upon-Hull.

This incorruptible patriot, and ingenious writer, discovered an attachment to letters from the earliest dawn of reason ; and had made so great proficiency in classical learning, that he was admitted a student of Trinity college, Cambridge, when only thirteen years old. Such was the promise of his genius, that he had not been long in that situation before the Jesuits, those busy agents of the Romish church, thought him a proper subject for a proselyte, and accordingly inveigled him to London. His father, however, had the good fortune to find him in a bookseller's shop, and prevailed on him to return to college ; where he pursued his studies with great assiduity, and in due course took his bachelor's degree.

When about eighteen years of age, he lost his father by a singular melancholy accident ; which, by as singular a series of events, paved the way to his own future fortune.

A widow lady of great respectability and virtue resided on the other side of the Humber. She had an only daughter of eminent beauty and accomplishments ; who, on some festive occasion, was allowed to spend a night at Mr. Marvell's house. Next day the young lady was anxious to return to her expecting parent ; and though it blew such a storm that even the watermen earnestly dissuaded her from attempting the passage, she was deaf to their remonstrances, and the worthy minister determined to accompany her. Just before they put off from land Mr. Marvell threw his gold-headed cane ashore, which he de-

sired might be given to his son, if any fatal consequences should ensue. His presentiment was too just; he and his companion found a watery grave. The mother of the unfortunate young lady was long inconsolable; but in time, reflecting on the greater loss which young Marvell had sustained, she adopted him as her son, took upon her the charge of his future education, and finally made him her heir.

After leaving the university, Marvell made the tour of Europe, and began to distinguish himself as a writer as well as a scholar. He had a peculiar turn for humour and satire; and some of his first essays contain much wit. He filled for a short time the situation of secretary to the English embassy at Constantinople; and on his return to his native country, became first a tutor to a young gentleman of fortune, and then joint Latin secretary to Cromwell with the immortal Milton.

A little before the Restoration, he was chosen to represent his native town in parliament; and in this honourable character he continued till his death, with unbounded applause. So well were his constituents satisfied with his conduct, that they pressed him to accept a pension raised among themselves; a worthy and patriotic mode of remunerating public men, once sanctioned by custom, but now unhappily grown obsolete.

Nor was it only from his townsmen that Mr. Marvell gained the highest admiration; his incorruptible integrity rendered him an object of respect to all the virtuous. By his writings and his conduct he made himself obnoxious to government, and more than once was obliged to abscond; yet the greatest men of the court, and even the sovereign himself, felt a strong esteem for him. As a speaker he was not much distinguished, but his influence was very great with the members of both houses; and prince Rupert had such respect for his judgment, that he frequently adopted his sentiments, and voted accordingly. On such occasions it was a common saying, "that the prince had been with his tutor." Indeed, such was the

intimacy between them, that when the indignant pen of Marvell had roused all the malice of venal courtiers, and he was forced to retire from the busy sscene, the prince used to visit him in disguise, and preserved his secret inviolate.

Charles the Second himself took great delight in unbending his mind with the society of Marvell; and often invited him to his parties, probably with a view of gaining his support; for it has long been a maxim with politicians, "that every man has his price." But all the insinuating arts of the king, and all the violence of his ministers, could not shake the resolution, or corrupt the integrity of Marvell; he was absolutely proof against every temptation. One instance is particularly worthy of being preserved. After spending the evening with Charles, lord Danby was dispatched next morning to find out his lodgings; which were then up two pair of stairs, in a small court in the Strand. When the treasurer opened the door abruptly, Marvell was busily employed in writing; and, surprised at such a visit, told his lordship he supposed he had mistaken his way. "Not now I have found Mr. Marvell," answered the earl; adding, that he was commissioned by his majesty to ask what he could do to serve him. "It is not in his majesty's power to serve me," replied Marvell, with humour. Coming to more serious explanation, he told the treasurer that he was well acquainted with the nature of courts, having been in many; and knew that whoever is distinguished by the favour of his prince is always expected to vote in his interest. Lord Danby assured him that it was from the sense alone which his majesty entertained of his merit, that he wished to know if any place at court would be acceptable to him. To this Marvell answered, that he could not, with honour accept the offer, since he must either be ungrateful if he voted against the king, or false to his country in supporting the measures of the court. The only favour therefore which he begged of his sovereign was, that he would be pleased to consider him as one of his most faithful subjects; and

that he had done more for his interest, by refusing than embracing his proffered kindness. Being at last urged to accept a thousand pounds till he could think of something permanent that would be agreeable to him, he rejected the money with the same steadiness ; though as soon as the lord-treasurer was gone, he was glad to borrow a guinea of a friend.

Such disinterested virtue will be laughed at by the selfish, and scarcely copied by any one in times when luxury has deadened the moral feeling : yet to the young it furnishes a bright example : and should be kept in view, though they may never be able to attain its excellence. The polar star serves to guide the mariner, though he would in vain attempt to gain its sphere.

After a life of private integrity and public worth, Marvell resigned his breath in the fifty-eighth year of his age, not without strong suspicions of being poisoned. He was buried in the church of St. Giles in the Fields : and his constituents, in grateful remembrance of his patriotic services, collected a sum of money to raise a monument over his grave, with an appropriate and elegant inscription, which is here subjoined, as a just picture of the man. But the rector of the parish refused to allow it to be erected ; and his only and indeed his best memorials are his life and writings : from which he appears to have been an active and zealous champion in defence of civil and religious liberty.

Near this place

Lieth the body of Andrew Marvell, esq.

A man so endowed by nature,

So improved by education, study, and travel,

So consummated by experience and learning,

That, joining the most peculiar grace of wit

With a singular penetration and strength of judgment,

And exercising all these in the whole course of his life

With unalterable steadiness in the way of virtue,

He became the ornament and example of his age ;

Beloved by good men, feared by bad, admired by all,

Though imitated, alas ! by few,
 And scarcely paralleled by any.
 But a tombstone can neither contain his character,
 Nor is marble necessary to transmit it to posterity ;
 It is engraved on the minds of this generation,
 And will always be legible in his inimitable writings.
 Nevertheless,
 He having served nearly twenty years successively in parliament ;
 And that with such wisdom, dexterity, integrity, and courage,
 As became a true patriot ;
 The town of Kingston-upon-Hull,
 From which he was constantly deputed to that assembly,
 Lamenting in his death, the public loss,
 Have erected this monument of their grief and gratitude

ALGERNON SYDNEY.

Born 1622.— Beheaded 1683.

From 19th James I. to 34th Charles II.

IN some minds the love of liberty is paramount to every other passion; and when this has a genuine stamp, is exerted on proper objects, and displayed on proper occasions, cold indeed must that soul be, which feels no ardour from the contemplation of its effects. At the names of Hampden; Russell, and Sydney, the youthful bosom beats high with the throb of patriotism, and expands with the glow of emulation. Their memory has long been consecrated by freedom and their country; they have been embalmed equally in the poet's lay and the patriot's harangue.

According to their own conceptions of duty, they acted purely and uprightly; and therefore are entitled to respect from such as may dislike their conduct. Sinister views did not enter into the composition of their actions; and if their principle should be deemed wrong, their hearts were right. Yet in admitting this, it should be impressed on youthful readers, that it is highly necessary to distinguish

between a real and a spurious liberty ; and dangerous to imbibe such doctrines of government as militate against practical experience, or are subversive of established order.

Thomson, after paying a handsome compliment to this illustrious triumvirate, concludes with the following character of the distinguished person now under consideration :

Of high determined spirit; roughly brave,
By ancient learning to the enlightened love
Of ancient freedom warm'd.

Algernon Sydney was the second son of Robert earl of Leicester, by a daughter of Henry Percy earl of Northumberland. From those dawnings of genius, which early appeared to a father's penetrating eye, the greatest encouragement was given to the cultivation of his mind. When a boy, he accompanied his noble parent in his embassy to Denmark, and afterwards to the court of France.

The acuteness of young Sydney, and the bent of his disposition for an active life, induced the earl (who was then appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland) to procure him a commission for a troop of horse in his own regiment. In consequence of this, in the year 1641, he repaired to Ireland, together with his brother, lord viscount Lisle ; and in the succeeding Irish rebellion, on various occasions, distinguished himself for his personal bravery.

Having acquired the character of a rising hero, after the expiration of two years he had the king's permission to revisit his native country, in company with lord Lisle. But the parliament found means to seize them in Lancashire : nor was it much doubted, from subsequent circumstances, that they were perfectly satisfied with the hands into which they had fallen, either through accident or choice ; for from this time they adhered to their new masters with unshaken fidelity, in opposition to a sovereign who both loved and respected them. The step which

Algernon had taken was irretrievable; and it appears to have influenced every future transaction of his life.

He soon rose to be a colonel in this new service : and when his brother was appointed the parliamentary lieutenant-general of Ireland, served on an expedition in that kingdom with the highest applause; where for his signal military exploits he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general of the horse, and constituted governor of Dublin. But trusts of such importance were little suited to his youthful age : he was soon superseded, and returned to England. Parliament, however, still treated him with the greatest distinction; and as a recompense for the posts which he had lost, made him governor of Dover-castle.

When those who had usurped the powers of the state determined on bringing the king to trial, Sydney was nominated one of his judges; but though he was a zealous republican on patriotic principles, he found means to decline taking any part, in that nefarious and unprecedented action. Warmed with the characters of some among the most exalted names of Greece and Rome, he professed to make Marcus Brutus his model; and when he found that his country had only changed an hereditary for an usurping tyrant, he opposed Cromwell with a determined spirit; and disdained to accept any place or employment, under the enslaver of his native land. This stern opposition to the protector, proves that Sydney had in reality adopted principles which others only professed as a mask to allure popularity. He was an enemy to tyranny in any form, or under any appellation; and could least of all acquiesce, in that which was established on the ruins of ancient monarchy.

As he was consistent throughout, civil liberty was his idol, and whoever violated it was the object of his enmity. In the Album of the university of Copenhagen he wrote and signed these lines, which may be considered as a summary of his principles :

—Manus hæc, inimica tyrannis,
Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem :

which are thus translated :

“ To tyrants hostile shall this arm be shown ;
It seeks for peace through liberty alone.”

From every indication, there cannot be a doubt that he would have joined heart and hand in any well-concerted plan for deposing Cromwell, and executing the same vengeance upon him, as Charles had suffered. But the die was cast, and he brooded in silence over his country's wrongs. A dawn of hope, however, revived in his breast, when the gentle and honest Richard Cromwell resigned the protectorship. Sydney, pleasing himself with the idea that the parliament would now establish a republican form of government, was eager to hold an ostensible place in the administration of affairs ; and accordingly was nominated one of the council of state, and soon after sent as a commissioner to mediate a peace between Denmark and Sweden ; but the happy Restoration quickly dissipated the illusive phantom that had appeared before his eyes.

The earl of Leicester, after remaining loyal to the king under every change, would probably have had sufficient interest to get his son included in the act of oblivion ; but he preferred a voluntary exile, in which he continued for seventeen years. During a considerable part of this long period, he resided at Rome and in its environs ; where he received the most flattering attentions from persons of the highest rank, and was held in great estimation for his mental and personal qualifications. Becoming tired, however, with a course of fashionable unmeaning forms, and desirous of witnessing his favourite republican maxims realised in some existing government, he withdrew to Switzerland ; where he associated with Ludlow and other political refugees.

He afterwards passed into France ; and during his stay in that country gave a proof of the bluntness of his manners, which a stern republican would dignify with the appellation of independence : but as long as a gradation of

ranks is necessary in polished society, so long will respect and civility be estimable and lovely. Being on a hunting-party with Louis the Fourteenth, his majesty took a particular fancy to the horse which Sydney rode ; and sent a message to request that he would part with it, and fix his price. Sydney only replied, that his horse was not to be sold. The king, who was unaccustomed to such language, sent peremptory orders to offer him a sum of money, fully adequate to its worth ; and, in case of his refusal, to bring the animal by force. Sydney, when apprised of this, instantly took a pistol and shot his horse, remarking, that it was born a free creature, had served a free man, and should not be mastered by a king of slaves.

His father, the earl of Leicester, being sensible of his approaching death, expressed the strongest desire once more to see his son, and obtained a special pardon from the king for his past offences. Accordingly, his filial duty overcame his rigid political principles, and he returned ; but brought with him all his prejudices. During his residence in France, he had detected some mean artifices, which had for their object to extort money from the people of England, under the false pretext of an approaching war ; while he was convinced there was no real misunderstanding between the two courts. He inveighed with his usual asperity against such a fraudulent scheme, and exposed the king and his administration in all the virulence of invective.

The earl of Leicester dying soon after, Sydney felt himself at liberty to censure, though he could not reform. The eyes of administration were consequently turned on such an obnoxious character ; and it was determined to keep him out of parliament by the most unwarrantable stretches of power. In this they twice succeeded : but our patriot's courage rose superior to all opposition ; he exposed the duplicity of government with such force as carried conviction ; he was zealous in promoting the bill forecluding the duke of York from the throne ; he associated only with the most determined enemies of the

corrupt court; and by these means provoked its vengeance to such a degree, that a resolution was taken to ruin this formidable enemy, by any methods that ingenious malice, seconded by power, could devise.

Accordingly, it was not long before an opportunity was found, to let Sydney feel the strength of that enmity which he had provoked. He was charged, on the most incompetent evidence with being concerned, in what is termed the Rye-house plot. His friend, the virtuous lord William Russell, who had made himself equally obnoxious by his manly defence of civil liberty, had been first condemned on a similar accusation, not only without evidence, but against it; and Sydney was singled out as the next victim of political vengeance.

He was brought to trial in the court of King's Bench, before the sanguinary Jeffreys, on the 21st of November, 1683. Three of the witnesses in favour of the prosecution could swear only to vague reports, gathered from others; which nevertheless were admitted as evidence, though Sydney justly denied the legality of such proceedings. At last lord Howard, a man of the most abandoned principles and character, but a fit tool for such a purpose, positively swore that he had been present at two meetings, when business of a rebellious nature was agitated by the conspirators: and in order to strengthen the evidence of a man who had lost all pretensions to be believed, the attorney-general, by a most shameful and unprecedented expedient, produced a passage from Sydney's Discourses on Government; which, though an abstract principle, without the least reference to the immediate subject of the charge, was deemed sufficient to convict him. Such a perversion of the law of evidence was never before known, in the worst times of our history; but perhaps there never was a judge who disgraced the bench like Jeffreys.

Sydney made a manly defence, and exclaimed against the unprecedented means that had been used to convict him. In the most solemn manner he abjured all personal

knowledge of the pretended plot ; and called God to witness, with uplifted hands and eyes, that he did not believe any such to exist in the contemplation of others. Several noblemen of unimpeachable veracity invalidated the testimony of Howard, and spoke to the innocence of Sydney: but a packed jury, and a bloody judge, declared him guilty ; and he suffered death, with the most heroic fortitude and composure, on Tower-hill, December 7th, 1683.

His attainder was reversed in the first year of William and Mary ; and that solemn justice was done to his memory, which had been denied to himself.

His character has thus been drawn by bishop Burnet, who was well acquainted with him : “ He was a man of extraordinary courage, and steady even to obstinacy ; sincere, but of a rough and boisterous disposition, and impatient of contradiction. He seemed to be a Christian, but of a particular form : he thought it consisted in a certain divine philosophy in the mind ; but he was against all public worship, and every thing that looked like a church. He was stiff to all republican principles : and such an enemy to every thing that looked like monarchy, that he set himself in a high opposition against Cromwell, when he assumed the protectorate. He had studied the history of government in all its branches, beyond any man I ever knew.”

His Discourses on Government have been so highly esteemed by some, that they are by them regarded as an ample compensation for the loss of Cicero’s six books “ Of a Commonwealth.” They certainly abound with energetic sentiments, and marks of deep penetration : but his collective principles are not reducible to practice ; and are, in many respects, only ingenious speculations. In short, Algernon Sydney commands our respect rather than our love : he was too inflexible for a politician, who really wished to serve his country ; and had none of those amiable weaknesses which conciliate affection, and blunt the edge of opposition and animosity.

JOHN TILLOTSON,
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

Born 1630. — Died 1694.

From 5th Charles I. to 5th William III.

If ever there was a man whose life in a more peculiar manner evidenced the influence of genuine Christianity; who rose without an effort or a wish, by dint of merit alone; and whose highest exaltation gave more pleasure to the virtuous and the good than to himself, it was archbishop Tillotson. Though all cannot reach his eminence, or equal his success, he furnishes one of the finest models for his profession, from its humblest to its highest sphere. The gifts of Fortune are often capriciously bestowed, and no one can be sure of her favours; but whoever copies this amiable and accomplished divine, will be rich in what the smiles of the world cannot give, nor its frowns take away.

John Tillotson, one among the brightest ornaments of the English church, was the son of a respectable clothier; and was born at Sowerby, near Halifax, in Yorkshire. Both his parents were rigid non-conformists; and he was initiated in the same principles; which, however, his maturer sense and more liberal mind soon taught him to reject.

His proficiency in grammatical learning was great, and almost superior to his years. This aptness for study induced his father to send him to the university of Cambridge, where he was entered a pensioner of Clare-hall; and in due course took the degrees of bachelor and master of arts; having, before he commenced master, been chosen to a fellowship of his college.

The love of truth was the ruling passion of his heart, and he sought it with sedulous zeal. He was early disgusted with the narrow views of the puritans; and had

the good-fortune to read a celebrated performance of Chillingworth's, which fixed the future bias of his mind. Being superior to the prejudices of education, he relinquished whatever was wrong, and adhered to whatever was right in the principles and conduct of those, among whom he had been bred; and no man was more instrumental in removing the well-meant though weak scruples of such as rejected communion with the church of England; or had a more tender regard for true liberty of conscience, when serious persuasion, and the force of argument, could not operate conviction of the truth.

He loved the non-conformists, after he had rejected their principles: and for some of them, who had been connected with him by the early ties of duty or of friendship, he retained an affectionate regard that nothing could dissolve. But he chiefly sought associates, after he had settled his mind, among the most eminent divines of the established church; and between him and Dr. John Wilkins, the future bishop of Chester, there existed an intimacy and an unreserved exchange of opinions, which contributed to their mutual improvement.

Having left the university about 1656, he was engaged as tutor to the son of Edward Prideaux, esq. attorney-general to Cromwell, in which situation he spent some time. The period when he entered into holy orders cannot now be ascertained, but it appears that his first employment in the church was that of curate at Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire. Here the young divine began to display those mild and gentle manners, that persuasive and impressive eloquence, which laid the foundation of his fortune and his fame.

As he was now settled in the vicinity of the metropolis, he was not unfrequently invited to appear in the pulpit there; for his reputation as a sacred orator, and the elegance of his compositions, made him peculiarly acceptable, to such as could appreciate merit and abilities. He was disgusted with the pulpit eloquence of the times; and struck out a style and manner of his own, which have

been justly esteemed a model for succeeding ages. Being deeply acquainted with theological subjects, and possessed of a sound judgment and a purity of taste, of which there were few examples among the preachers of that time; he soon attracted so much deserved notice, that in 1662 he was offered the parish of St. Mary, Aldermanbury, the patronage of which was vested in the parishioners. For some reasons, now unknown, he declined this benefice: but was soon presented to the rectory of Keddington, in Suffolk; in which however he was scarcely settled, before the society of Lincoln's-inn appointed him their preacher. But so strongly were even the courts of law tainted with fanaticism, and so accustomed to the cant of those times, that at first the rational piety of Tillotson was disliked; and complaints were sometimes heard, against what is now allowed to constitute the principal beauty of his discourses. This however was temporary: by degrees a better taste began to prevail; and our excellent divine not only overcame the prejudices of the society; but, being chosen lecturer of St. Lawrence Jewry, he was followed by a numerous audience for instruction, and by many of his own profession for improvement.

From zeal to discharge faithfully his sacred function, he determined to oppose the two growing evils of Charles the Second's reign, atheism and popery. He not only combated them in the pulpit, but from time to time published such tracts or sermons as were calculated for a more extensive effect; and his laudable and pious intentions did not lose their reward.

In 1666 he took the degree of doctor in divinity; and having married Elizabeth French, niece to Oliver Cromwell, and who was connected by affinity with his friend Dr. John Wilkins, he was appointed to preach the consecration sermon of that prelate to the see of Chester. Though averse to solicitation himself, he found in the zeal of his friends an antidote against neglect; for in 1670 he was made prebendary of Canterbury, and two years

afterwards dean of that church, having previously obtained a prebend in St. Paul's.

Dr. Tillotson had been seven years on the list of chaplains to Charles the Second; but the zeal which, on all occasions, he displayed against popery and irreligion, rendered him no favourite with that monarch; and he was rather advanced by the interest of friends who knew his value, than cordially loved by the court. He therefore contented himself with discharging the duty of his station, without indulging hopes of preferment; and never obtruded himself on notice, except when the interests of religion, or the welfare of the establishment, were at stake. When a declaration for liberty of conscience was published, which, under the mask of moderation, had a view to the indulgence of papists, the dignified clergy took the alarm, and the king complained to the primate Sheldon of their refractory conduct. The archbishop called some of them together, and begged their advice. Here the wisdom and firmness of Tillotson were eminently conspicuous. He suggested, that since the king professed the protestant religion, it would be a thing unprecedented to forbid the clergy to preach in defence of it. The sentiment was so just, and the argument so conclusive, that it was unanswerable; and the clergy seem to have acquiesced in his opinion, should it have been necessary to defend their conduct. Nevertheless, Dr. Tillotson was such a friend to moderation, that early in 1668 he joined in a treaty for the admission of such protestant dissenters as could be brought within the pale of the church, by making mutual concessions; but the violence of the intemperate rendered this plan abortive.

Meanwhile his preaching and his writings equally tended to preserve the establishment from the encroachments of popery; and his private exertions in the same cause were remarkably successful. He had the happiness to convert the earl of Shrewsbury to the protestant faith; and he lived to see his noble proselyte raised to a dukedom, and made secretary of state to king William.

In proportion as these labours raised him in the estimation of the people, they alienated the affection of the court, which was then suspected of an inclination to popery. But Tillotson did not shrink from his duty; and the press was continually producing some work of his which had for its object the exaltation of pure religion, or the recovery of those who wandered in the delusions of vice and error.

On the discovery of the Rye-house plot, a melancholy scene was disclosed, which affected the tenderest sensibility of Tillotson. His virtuous and illustrious friend, Lord William Russell, being deeply implicated in this charge, and afterwards brought to the block, he attended on that nobleman with the most affectionate assiduity; he armed him with the consolations of religion; and supported his afflicted family with every relief, that the hopes of a better existence can bestow.

In 1685 he had another opportunity of peculiarly displaying his amiable character. The revocation of the edict of Nantz drove thousands of the French protestants to this country; and many of them settled at Canterbury, where their posterity still continue. The king having granted briefs to collect alms for them, Tillotson was peculiarly active in promoting their success; and when Dr. Beveridge, one of the prebendaries of Canterbury, refused to read the brief, as being contrary to the rubric, he was silenced by the dean with this energetic reply: "Doctor, doctor, charity is above rubrics."

Such was the high character of dean Tillotson, that when the settlement of the crown on king William for life was agitated in parliament, the princess Anne of Denmark, who had been advised by the Jacobites to oppose it as prejudicial to her own interest, consulted him on this momentous occasion; and, from a regard to his persuasions, is said to have relinquished her prior claim. On the accession of William and Mary, to whose advancement he had been zealously attached, he was admitted

into high favour and confidence at court, and made clerk of the closet.

Still, however, the ambition of Tillotson led him no further, than to solicit an exchange of his deanery for that of St. Paul's, when the latter became vacant by the promotion of Stillingfleet to the see of Worcester. This moderate wish, which tended to a diminution and not an increase of his income, was readily granted: but his majesty had higher promotion in view for this amiable and disinterested divine.

Archbishop Sanerost having refused to take the oaths of allegiance to William and Mary, after their title had been recognised by parliament, his suspension became necessary; and, if he continued refractory, his removal also. The king entertained such an exalted opinion of Tillotson, that he immediately thought of making him primate. The reluctance with which Tillotson himself fell into his majesty's views, is forcibly expressed in a letter to lady Russell. He had already refused a mitre; and, of all things, his ambition seems to have been least directed to the primacy. But the earnest representations of the king, and a zeal for his service, at last overcame his resolution; and he was consecrated archbishop of Canterbury, in May, 1691. Immediately afterwards he was sworn of the privy-council; and set about the duties of his high office with the same religious zeal, tempered with moderation, as had adorned his former life.

When Dr. Tillotson refused the archbishopric, he had wisely appreciated the difficulties of the station, and the obloquy to which it would expose him. He foresaw that the successor of Sancroft, whoever he might be, would be an object for all the virulence and malice of the non-jurors; and not long after his promotion, he felt his apprehension realised.

He was insulted by incendiary letters, by the grossest libels, and the keenest invectives; yet his Christian temper never forsook him. He interceded for those who had *been* convicted of the most bitter calumnies against him;

and on a bundle of papers found after his death was this inscription: "These are libels; I pray God forgive the writers, as I do."

That a man whose blameless life, whose exalted merit had been so long known and allowed by the public, should at once become the object of unmerited detraction, can only be accounted for from the enmity of political opposition, and that envy which ever attends high station. His mild inoffensive manners too might possibly provoke the injuries of the base. Among those who are destitute of magnanimity themselves, forbearance gives confidence to insult. How often does malice shoot its arrows at the patient spirit, while daring guilt escapes its attack! The gentle sheep is the prey of the most contemptible animals; but the lordly lion defies the approach of an aggressor.

Though the ungenerous treatment, which this truly dignified character received from his enemies, probably disturbed his internal quiet, it had no influence on his conduct. He pursued the suggestions of religion and virtue, and soared above the petty malice of the contemptible. He showed no pride in his elevation, no alteration in his way of thinking or of acting; and as if he meant to read an impressive lesson to all posterity, and to correct that false estimate of life which places happiness in grandeur, he left among his papers the following reflections upon rank:—"One would be apt to wonder that Nehemiah should reckon a huge bill of fare, and a vast number of promiscuous guests, among his virtues and good deeds, for which he desires God to remember him; but upon better consideration, besides the bounty, and sometimes charity, of a great table, provided there be nothing of vanity or ostentation in it, there may be exercised two very considerable virtues; one in temperance, and the other self-denial: in a man's being contented, for the sake of the public, to deny himself so much, as to sit down every day to a feast, and to eat continually in a crowd, and almost never to be alone, especially when (as it often happens) a great part of the company that a man

must have, is the company that a man would not have. I doubt it will prove but a melancholy business when a man comes to die, to have made a great noise and bustle in the world, and to have been known far and near ; but all this while to have been hid and concealed from himself. It is a very odd and fantastical sort of a life, for a man to be continually from home, and most of all a stranger at his own house. It is surely an uneasy thing to sit always in a frame, and to be perpetually upon a man's guard ; not to be able to speak a careless word, or to use a negligent posture, without observation and censure. Men are apt to think that they who are in the highest places, and have the most power, have most liberty to say and do what they please : but it is quite otherwise ; for they have the least liberty, because they are most observed. It is not mine own observation : a much wiser man, I mean Tully, says, '*In maximâ quâque fortunâ minimum licere*;' that is, They that are in the highest and greatest conditions, have, of all others, the least liberty. All these, and many more, are the evils which attend on greatness ; and the envy that pursues it, is the result of ignorance and vanity."

From his first advancement to the primacy, Dr. Tillotson had began to conceive the most enlarged designs for the welfare of the church and the interest of religion ; and in these noble views he received every encouragement and support from the throne : but Providence, in its infinite wisdom, called him from this sublunary state, before he had a full opportunity of employing the powers with which he was invested, to the best purposes for which they were given. He did not survive his advancement much more than three years ; a period too small for effecting important changes, which should always be gradual, and almost imperceptible. While attending divine service at Whitehall, on Sunday, November 18. 1694, he was seized with the palsy. The fit was slow in its advances, but fatal in its effects. His articulation became indistinct, but his soul shone serene and calm amidst the

conflict. In broken words, he thanked his Maker that he felt his conscience at ease, and that he had nothing further to do but to await the will of heaven.

Though Dr. Tillotson had been so much traduced during life, by the disaffected and the depraved, the minds of men now underwent such a sudden conversion, that his death created universal sorrow. Never was a subject more sincerely lamented, or a funeral more numerously attended. All ranks came forward voluntarily to pay to the memory of this good man, whose virtues and station no longer excited envy, the homage of their tears; and to assist at the last solemnity. He was buried at the church of St. Lawrence Jewry; where he had formerly displayed his eloquence, and attracted the attention of the public.

Not only malice subsided, or was ashamed of the enmity which it had borne him, but all descriptions of men joined in his praise; and he deserved well the loudest plaudits of gratitude and virtue. His whole life was exemplary. In his domestic connections, in his friendships, and in his whole commerce with the world, he was easy and humble, frank, humane, and bountiful. He distributed his charity with such a liberal hand, and despised the accumulation of money to such a degree, that he left nothing for his family, after the payment of his debts, except the copy-right of his sermons, which was sold for two thousand five hundred guineas.

As a theologist, archbishop Tillotson ranks very high, even in the opinion of foreign nations. His sermons have been frequently printed; and will always be read with pleasure and improvement, as long as regard shall be paid to sound divinity, adorned by good sense. They have been translated into several languages, and received this deserved and appropriate panegyric from the able critic Le Clerc;—“The merit of Tillotson is above any commendation in my power to bestow; it is formed on the union of an extraordinary clearness of conception, a great penetration, an exquisite talent of reasoning, a profound

knowledge of true divinity, a solid piety, a most singular perspicuity, and an unaffected elegance of style, with every other quality that was decorous in a man of his order. His pulpit harangues are for the most part exact dissertations; and are capable of bearing the test of the most rigorous examination."

JOHN LOCKE.

Born 1632. — Died 1704.

From 7th Charles I. to 2d Anne.

A PHILOSOPHER will ever attract veneration, in proportion to the solidity of his principles, and the conformity that his practice bears to his doctrines. Locke, "who made the whole internal world his own," who scanned our perceptions and our powers with intuitive clearness, who fixed civil liberty on the basis of reason, and made religion appear amiable by his life and conversation, will live to the latest ages in the grateful memory of his country and of mankind, whom he enlightened and improved.

This celebrated philosopher was descended from a genteel family in Somersetshire, but which had been considerably reduced. His father was originally bred to the profession of the law; but on the commencement of the civil wars, took up arms in the service of the parliament, and rose to the rank of captain. The son was born at Warrington, near Bristol: and from his tenderest infancy experienced the happy effects of paternal solicitude and attention to his improvement. In due time he was sent to Westminster-school, where he remained till the age of nineteen; he was then entered of Christ-church; and soon distinguished himself by the promptness of his ingenuity, and the variety and extent of his acquirements.

Having taken his degree in arts, he commenced the study of physic ; and after going through the preparatory courses, resolved to practise at Oxford. The strength of his constitution, however, being found unequal to the fatigues of that profession, and his success probably not being very great, he gladly accepted an offer of being secretary to sir William Swan, who was appointed envoy to the court of Brandenburg, in 1664. This employment was of no long duration, but it was not without advantages. It gave Mr. Locke an insight into men and business, and paved the way to his better reception afterwards in the world.

Resuming his professional studies at Oxford, he began to distinguish himself by his contempt of the scholastic jargon, and by his general progress in sound philosophy.

While thus laudably occupied, an incident changed the complexion of his fortune, and gave greater scope to the energies of his mind. He had not yet found a patron, without which genius and merit at that time seldom rose : and he found one, without expecting it, in lord Ashley, afterwards the celebrated earl of Shaftesbury.

His lordship, having an abscess in his breast, was advised to drink the waters of Astrop, near Banbury ; and sent to a physician at Oxford, to provide him some, against his arrival in that city. This gentleman, being called away by other business, left his commission to Mr. Locke, who soon made such an impression on lord Ashley, by the urbanity of his manners and the strength of his understanding, that he was invited to accompany his lordship to Astrop : and having, by his medical advice, been instrumental in saving this nobleman's life, he was afterwards taken into his house, and introduced to the acquaintance of other distinguished persons. His lordship indeed was so partial to Mr. Locke, that he would not allow him to submit to practise physic out of his own family, except among a few particular friends.

In this situation of elegance and refinement, he continued several years with little intermission ; and sketched

his grand work, the *Essay on Human Understanding*; but was prevented from making any considerable progress in it, by being appointed secretary of presentations, when his patron was raised to the dignity of lord-chancellor.

When Shaftesbury was deprived of the seals, Mr. Locke, who had enjoyed his most unreserved confidence, fell into disgrace with him. However, his lordship being still president of the board of trade, he was appointed secretary; which office he held till the commission was dissolved in 1674, when his public employments were at an end.

Like a man who wisely considered the instability of fortune, he still retained his studentship at Christ-church; to which place he occasionally resorted; allured by books, literary conversation, and a pure air. Here he took his degree of bachelor in medicine, in 1675: and for the benefit of his health, which he felt declining, he the same year visited Montpelier; where he made some stay, and contracted several valuable friendships. Though he did not neglect his profession, in which he had acquired considerable reputation with the intelligent, his thoughts seem to have been chiefly directed to his "*Essay*;" but this work remained as yet in a very imperfect state.

In 1679, lord Shaftesbury, being again called into office, sent for Mr. Locke: but his noble patron, being disgraced and imprisoned in a few months, had no opportunity of serving his friend; by whom he was immediately followed, when his lordship flew into Holland to avoid prosecution. Being involved in the disgrace, and implicated in the charges brought against lord Shaftesbury, Mr. Locke became so obnoxious to the court, that he was removed from his studentship by the royal authority; a proceeding which he thought very irregular and unjust.

After this example of what he had to expect from government, our philosopher judged it prudent to remain in exile, till the accession of James the Second; when, by the friendly interference of sir William Penn, he was offered a pardon; which, with the spirit of a man conscious

of innocence, he refused, alleging that the acceptance of a pardon would be a sort of confession that he had been guilty of some crime.

On the duke of Monmouth's invasion, he was again the object of jealousy, and the English envoy at the Hague demanded to have him delivered up. Having intelligence of this, he absconded; and employed himself on his *Essay*, till the suspicion against him appeared to be wholly groundless; when he again returned.

In 1687, he became a member of a literary society at Amsterdam, composed of several celebrated characters, who met weekly to discourse on subjects of universal learning; and the same year he finished his great work, which had at intervals engaged his attention during nine years. Soon afterwards he published an abridgment of it in French, as if to feel the pulse of the public; and finding that the expectation which he wished to raise was confirmed, he put the entire work to press on his arrival in England with the princess of Orange, in February, 1689.

Being justly regarded as a sufferer for the principles of the Revolution, as well as a man of worth and extraordinary abilities, he had considerable pretensions to the notice of government, and is said to have had it in his power to obtain a post of importance: but so small was his ambition, that he declined a public mission to any court; and was satisfied with the place of commissioner of appeals, worth about two hundred pounds a year.

The state of his health, which was never very good, being at this time extremely indifferent, he had the happiness to attract the notice of sir Francis Masham and his lady, who kindly offered him an apartment at Oates, in Essex. This he accepted; and here he spent almost the whole remainder of his days, in a society to which he was endeared; with a tranquillity suiting a philosopher, and a felicity which rarely falls even to a philosopher's lot.

In this social retirement, he pursued his studies without interruption; and the first fruit of them was his famous *Treatise on Government*, one of the best on that subject

which any language can afford. His Letters on Toleration, too, which appeared at intervals ; together with a variety of controversial, political, and religious pieces, gained him an increasing celebrity, which the efforts of literary opponents served only to raise.

In 1695, king William made him one of the commissioners of trade and plantations, which office he retained five years ; but now feeling an asthma, which had long afflicted him, beginning to subdue his vital powers, he resigned his place, and settled wholly at Oates ; where he employed the remainder of his life in studying the Scriptures, which had ever been the rule of his conduct, and now were the solace of his declining days.

His dissolution approaching by perceptible though slow advances, he prepared himself for the last scene with the aids which Christianity supplies, and with the calmness of a true philosopher. The day before his death, while lady Masham was sitting by his bedside, he exhorted her to regard this world only as a state of preparation for a better : adding that he had lived long enough, and expressed his gratitude to God for the happiness which had fallen to his lot. He expired without a groan on the 28th of October, 1704 ; and was interred in the church of Oates, where a monument is erected to his memory, with a modest inscription written by himself. He died sincerely lamented by the good and the wise ; and his fame has suffered no diminution from the lapse of more than a century.

His character, his manners, and sentiments, are briefly conveyed in the following abstract, taken from an account of this great man by a person who knew him well. It furnishes a noble model for imitation.

“ Mr. Locke had great knowledge of the world, and of its business. He won esteem by his probity. His wisdom, his experience, and his gentle and obliging manners, gained him the respect of his inferiors, the esteem of his equals, and the friendship and confidence of the most exalted ranks. At first he was free of good advice ; but

experience of the unfavourable manner in which it is generally received, made him afterwards more reserved.

“ In conversation he was inclined to the solid and serious; but when occasion naturally offered, he gave into the free and facetious with pleasure and grace. He was no enemy to delicate and innocent raillery; or to anecdote aptly introduced, and naturally told.

“ He loved to talk with mechanics, and used to say that the knowledge of the arts contained more true philosophy than learned hypotheses. By putting questions to artificers, he would sometimes discover a secret not well understood; and assist to give them views entirely new, for their own profit, when carried into practice.

“ He was so far from affecting a studied gravity, that he frequently turned it into ridicule; and admired and quoted on such occasions the famous maxim of Rochefoucault, that gravity is a mysterious deportment of the body, in order to conceal the defects of the mind.

“ In every thing he delighted to employ his reason; nor was any thing useful beneath his care, so that he appeared capable of small things as well as great. It was a common observation with him, that there is an art in every thing; and the manner in which he set about the most trifling object, gave a confirmation to his remark.”

SIR JOHN HOLT,

LORD-CHIEF-JUSTICE OF THE KING'S BENCH.

Born 1642. — Died 1709.

From 17th Charles I. to 7th Anne.

It has been said by a celebrated poet, that “ an honest man's the noblest work of God.” However this sentiment, in the abstract, may be controverted on substantial

grounds, (as simple honesty is rather perhaps a negative than an active virtue,) yet it will not be disputed, that an honest and able-lawyer is one of the most valuable members of society. Both honesty and ability, however, without the concurrence of fortune, are frequently lost to the world; but it was the happier lot of Holt to fill a station which developed and emblazoned his virtues and his talents. He was characterised by the Tatler under the glorious title of Verus; by his profession he has ever been considered as a luminary of the first order, and by his country as a spotless patriot.

Thame in Oxfordshire had the honour of producing this great ornament of the law. He was the son of sir Thomas Holt, who flourished in the same profession, during the reign of Charles the Second; and who became recorder of Abingdon, to which town he afterwards removed with his family. At the grammar-school there, young Holt received the rudiments of his education; and was distinguished for a vivacity of disposition, and for his early attainments. In due course he became gentleman-commoner of Oriel college, Oxford, under the tuition of Mr. Francis Barry. What progress he made at the university, is uncertain; it seems probable that he was more distinguished for sprightliness than application: but he did not remain here long; for in the seventeenth year of his age he entered himself of Gray's-inn, where his assiduity soon became as conspicuous as his abilities. He studied the common law with indefatigable industry, and speedily gained the reputation of an able barrister.

In the reign of James the Second, he was made recorder of London by the king's letters-patent; the city having then lost the privilege of electing its own officers, which was not restored till the Revolution. In this character he discharged his duty with high applause, and received the honour of knighthood: but refusing to sanction the abolition of the test, and the assumed dispensing power of the king, he gave such offence at court, that he was removed from his place. He did not, however, lose the

fruits of his firm and honest conduct. A good man may be degraded, but cannot be disgraced. From this time, Holt became more conspicuous in the public eye ; and his integrity marked him out for due reward when happier times should arrive.

He was chosen a member of the convention parliament in 1688 : and was appointed one of the managers on the part of the commons at the conferences held with the peers, respecting the abdication of James and the vacancy of the throne. Here he had an ample field for displaying his legal talents : and a most glorious opportunity of showing his attachment to the principles of the constitution, which are equally remote from despotic power and democratical control.

His judicious and patriotic behaviour on this occasion was the probable cause of his advancement, on the happy accession of William and Mary. Next year he was constituted lord-chief-justice of the king's bench, and sworn a member of the privy-council. Though still young for such an important station, his contemporaries allow that he filled it with signal honour to himself, and benefit to his country. Being attached to civil liberty, he suffered no bias of gratitude, no influence, however great, to divert him from the line of duty ; and in some very remarkable causes, intimately affecting the life and liberty of the subject, he decided with that purity and independence which ought ever to direct a dispenser of justice. Forcible and perspicuous in his definitions, and possessing a discriminating judgment which stripped off the glosses of chicane, his inferences had all the weight of authority, because they bore the seal of truth.

In the famous Banbury case, he exhibited an illustrious instance of public spirit and inflexible rectitude. Lord Banbury was indicted by the name of Charles Knollys, esq. for the murder of his brother-in-law, captain Lawson. The house of lords had previously disallowed his peerage ; but on his demurring to their decision, and claiming trial by his peers, lord-chief-justice Holt, after the

case had been solemnly and repeatedly argued by the crown-lawyers and the counsel for defendant, declared in favour of lord Banbury; and proved by the most incontrovertible arguments, that a supreme court, *in the last resort*, has no jurisdiction in an *original* case. "The house of peers," said he, "has jurisdiction over its own members, and is a supreme court: but it is the law which has invested them with such ample authorities; and therefore it is no diminution of their power to say, that they ought to observe those limits which the law has prescribed to them, and which in other respects has made them so great. As to the law of parliament (which had been talked of) he did not know of any such law: for every law that binds the subjects of this realm ought either to be the common law and usage of the realm, or an act of parliament. What had been said by the king's counsel respecting the law of parliament, he considered as only intended to frighten the judges: but that he did not regard; for though he had all respect and deference for that honourable body, yet he sat there to administer justice according to the laws of the land, and according to his oath; and he should regard nothing but the discharge of his duty." — In consequence of this spirited resolution, he was afterwards summoned to give his reasons for this judgment before a committee of the house of peers; but he disdained to comply with such extrajudicial proceedings, and maintained the independence of the bench. Some of the lords were so much irritated at his manly firmness, that they threatened to send him to the Tower: but the more dispassionate and sensible part of the house saw the danger of proceeding to such extremities; and as they were determined not to recognise lord Banbury's title, the business dropped, both with regard to his lordship and judge Holt.

When lord-chancellor Somers resigned the great seal in 1700, king William pressed lord-chief-justice Holt to accept it: but his lordship, who had no ambition to quit his present honourable station, replied, "that he never

had had but one chancery suit in his life, which he lost ; and consequently could not think himself qualified for so great a trust."

In the second year of queen Anne's reign a very important cause, which arose from an election at Aylesbury, was agitated by the judges, relative to the right of the returning-officers, to refuse a legal vote in the election of members for parliament. This, after being decided at the assizes in favour of the person who had been rejected, was removed into the court of king's bench ; and attracted much notice, from being the first question of the kind that had been tried there. Three of the judges were of opinion that no injury which required legal redress was done to the plaintiff, and were for reversing the sentence for damages : but Holt, with a penetration which did him honour, and a love of liberty that ought to endear him to the latest posterity, maintained " that if the plaintiff had a right, he must of necessity have a means to vindicate and support it, and a remedy if he is injured in the exercise or enjoyment of it ; and it was a vain thing to imagine a right without a remedy ; for want of right and want of remedy were reciprocal." The house of commons took up this matter very seriously : for, if a question of this nature should be admitted to be cognizable by a court of law, it might of course be carried by appeal before the house of lords ; and thus a point which affected in a very high degree one of their most essential privileges and interests (that of determining on all questions relative to the elections of their own members) would be subjected to the decision of another branch of the legislature. The peers, on the other hand, strenuously insisted on the doctrine supported by lord-chief-justice Holt ; arguing that, if a person is deprived of the exercise of his constitutional right by the refusal of the sheriff or other returning-officer to admit him to vote at an election, it is but just that he should be able to procure compensation in a court of law, as in every other case of injury sustained. The nation in general (as might be

expected) eagerly adopted this sentiment ; and the extraordinary and unparalleled spectacle was exhibited, of a contest between the two houses of parliament, in which the lords defended the popular side of the question, in opposition to the commons. The two houses at last became warm in the dispute ; and the queen saw no other means to allay the ferment, than by dissolving the parliament.

On every occasion, Holt zealously defended the constitutional liberties of the people : and showed the utmost aversion to the exercise of military power, under pretence of assisting the civil. A riot happening in Holborn, on account of young persons of both sexes being trepanned and confined in a certain house, till they could be shipped off to the American plantations, a party of the guards were commanded to march to the spot ; but an officer was first dispatched to the lord-chief-justice, requesting him to send some of his people in order to give this affair a better appearance. " Suppose," said the judge to the officer, " the populace will not disperse, what are you to do then ? " " Sir," answered he, " we have orders to fire on them." " Have you so ? " replied his lordship ; " then take notice of what I say : if one man is killed, and you are tried before me, I will take care that you and every soldier of your party shall be hanged." Having dismissed the officer with a reprimand for his employers, he ordered his tipstaves with a few constables to attend him ; and proceeding to the scene of tumult, expostulated with the mob, assured them that justice should be done, and pacified them to such a degree that they quietly dispersed.

This upright judge, having filled his exalted office for a period of twenty-one years with the highest credit to himself and utility to the public, was carried off by a lingering illness in the sixty-eighth year of his age. His body was interred in the church of Redgrave, in the county of Suffolk ; where a sumptuous monument was

erected to his memory. By his lady, a daughter of sir John Cropley, he left no issue.

A judicious biographer has thus summed up the character of lord-chief-justice Holt; which, from an impartial review of his life, appears to be perfectly just. "He was one of the ablest and most upright judges that ever presided in a court of justice. He was a perfect master of the common law, and applied himself with great assiduity to the functions of his important office. Possessed of uncommon clearness of understanding, and great solidity of judgment, such were the integrity and firmness of his mind, that he could never be brought to swerve in the least from what he esteemed law and justice. He was remarkably strenuous in nobly asserting, and as rigorously supporting, the rights and liberties of the subject, to which he paid the greatest regard; and would not even suffer a reflection tending to depreciate them to pass uncensured, or without a severe reprimand."

As a legal writer he was less distinguished. The duties of his station left him but little leisure; yet he is not unknown to students by his works. In 1708, he published sir John Keyling's Reports, with some annotations of his own, and three modern cases which had attracted great notoriety. Some juvenile frolics are generally ascribed to Holt, but with no great authenticity: yet, as they convey the only existing records of his private character, one of this kind shall be here inserted, which, whether true or false, can reflect but little disgrace upon his memory.

Being once out on a party of pleasure with some young men, and their money being all spent, it was agreed to separate, and try their fortunes singly. Holt put up at the first inn that came in his way, with a bold face; and seeing the only daughter of the family, who was then about thirteen years of age, shivering under a fit of the ague, he immediately conceived an idea how he might turn this circumstance to his advantage. On interrogating the mother, he discovered that the girl had long laboured under

this complaint, and that the art of medicine had been tried in vain. On this he shook his head ; and bade her take courage, for she should never have another fit. He then wrote an unintelligible scrawl in court-hand on a piece of parchment, and ordered it to be bound round the daughter's wrist. It happened that the charm had the desired effect ; and when Holt, without a penny in his pocket, at the end of the week called for his bill, he found the gratitude of the family for his skill and service precluded them from making any demand. He was even considered as a benefactor of the first importance, and they parted with mutual good-will.

In the course of many years, when raised to be a judge, he went the circuit in the same county ; and among other criminals at the assizes, was an old woman accused of witchcraft. She was indicted for having a spell by which she could cure such cattle as were sick, or destroy such as were well ; and this magical charm, being seized upon her, was ready to be produced in court. Holt ordered it to be shown him ; and having divested it of numerous coverings, found it to consist of the very piece of parchment which he had used in the above case to cure the girl of an ague. He immediately recollected the incident ; and with a magnanimity which exalted his character, confessed the trick which he had played. The jury, of course, acquitted the prisoner ; and judge Holt's landlady was the last person that was tried in those parts, on the absurd charge of witchcraft.

GILBERT BURNET, BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

Born 1643. — Died 1715.

From 18th Charles I. to 2d George I.

THERE are some men who appear great only while the splendour of rank, or the bustle of station, dazzles the eyes of the spectators ; others become magnified as they recede from the public view, and are seen like stars in a distant sky. Of this latter description is bishop Burnet : a man too much implicated in the various political convulsions which agitated his time, to escape censure ; but whose memory is generally allowed to be clear from any considerable stain.

Gilbert Burnet was descended from an ancient family in Aberdeenshire. His father was a lawyer ; and as a reward for his constant attachment to the royal party, at the Restoration was appointed one of the lords of session. His mother was sister to sir Alexander Johnston, and an enthusiastical Calvinist.

During the Usurpation, Mr. Burnet having refused to acknowledge Cromwell's authority, had no other employment than the instruction of his own son, which he attended to with the most patient industry ; and at ten years of age sent him to the university of Aberdeen, whither he also removed himself, to assist in superintending his education. This was so strictly pursued, that the youth was obliged to rise at four in the morning : a practice which became habitual to him ; and gave him more time for study, and a larger enjoyment of life, than fall to the share of most men. Whatever is stolen from sleep is certainly added to existence ; and though late hours are justly deemed injurious to health, early rising is at once conducive to pleasure and to profit.

Burnet's original destination was the church ; yet he was so much attached to the study of civil and feudal law, that nothing could divert his attention from it ; and he often declared that he had deduced from this source juster principles of civil society and government, than many of his profession would allow him to possess.

Having satisfied his mind on those topics, he applied with equal ardour to divinity : and, as a relaxation, perused a prodigious number of books on subjects of general knowledge ; so that he was master of a vast fund of learning, before he reached his eighteenth year. Being admitted a probationer preacher, he refused a benefice which was offered him ; and having lost his father in 1663, he visited Oxford and Cambridge, where he staid about six months.

Next year he made a tour to Holland and France ; and perfected himself in Hebrew, by the assistance of a rabbi at Amsterdam. Here likewise he became acquainted with the most distinguished divines of the various sects which toleration had united in friendly intercourse ; and having such a pattern before his eyes, he became fixed in a strong principle of universal charity, and an invincible abhorrence of all intolerance in religion.

On his return to Scotland, he was admitted into holy orders, and presented to the living of Saltoun. His abilities would not suffer him to be inactive or useless. He mediated between the episcopalians and the presbyterians with considerable effect ; but rendered himself obnoxious to the zealots of both parties. Such is too frequently the only reward of candour and liberality of sentiment !

Being promoted to the divinity chair of Glasgow, he filled that station upwards of four years, and made himself very acceptable to the duchess of Hamilton ; which was the basis of his future promotion. The earl of Lauderdale invited him to London ; where he had the choice of four Scottish bishoprics offered him, but he declined them all. On his return to Glasgow, he married lady Margaret

Kennedy, daughter of the earl of Cassilis; and showed the most generous disinterestedness by the manner in which he disposed of her fortune.

His merit and abilities had for some time pointed him out as a proper person to wear the mitre, but he still declined promotion in Scotland. However, on the king's own nomination, he was made chaplain in ordinary; but on giving some disgust to the court, his name was soon after erased from the list.

Finding his enemies beginning to prevail against him, he relinquished his professor's chair at Glasgow, and resolved to settle in London. His reputation as a sacred writer and divine was so great, that notwithstanding the opposition of the court, he was appointed preacher at the Rolls chapel, and soon after chosen lecturer of St. Clement's.

His fame being fully established, and his popularity increasing, in 1679 he published the first volume of his History of the Reformation; for which he obtained the thanks of parliament. About this time he was accidentally introduced to the acquaintance of the dissolute earl of Rochester; and had such a happy influence on his mind, that the earl in consequence became a sincere penitent, and a convert to Christianity.

Burnet, though odious to the court, was highly respected by the people, and for some time this was his powerful defence; but having given fresh provocation by his amiable solicitude for lord William Russell, he retired to France, where the most flattering distinctions were paid him. On his return to London, however, resuming his clerical functions, he inveighed with so much asperity against popery, that he was silenced by royal authority.

On the accession of James the Second, he left the kingdom, and travelled into Italy. Pope Innocent the Second voluntarily offered him a private audience, that the ceremony of kissing the slipper might be dispensed with; but Burnet declined the polite proposal in the most civil manner. He, however, visited some of the cardinals, and

made no reserve of his sentiments. This freedom could not long be tolerated; and he received an intimation that it would be prudent to withdraw. However commendable it is to be zealous for the truth, there can be no merit in that intemperate ardour which overlooks the decorums of time and place. To dispute, is not to convince; and Burnet, on this occasion, seems to have forgotten what was due to the prejudices or institutions of a country in which he had no interest, and whose government he was bound to respect, so long as he remained under its protection.

After travelling through Italy and Switzerland, he arrived at Utrecht, with a design of fixing his residence in the United Provinces. The prince and princess of Orange, to whom he had been recommended by their party in England, hearing of his arrival, gave him a very pressing invitation to the Hague, which he accepted; and he was soon admitted into the most intimate confidence of those illustrious personages. He advised them to equip such a fleet as would be sufficient to support their designs, and encourage their friends at once to declare in their favour. Meanwhile he facilitated their reception by publishing an account of his travels: in which he represented popery and tyranny as inseparable, with a view to alienate the affections of the people from James; and by some keen reflections on the conduct of government, actively circulated in loose sheets, gave such offence to the king, that he earnestly desired Burnet might be forbid the court of the prince and princess of Orange. This was complied with in appearance, not in reality; and soon afterwards, being now a widower, and paying his addresses to Miss Scot, a Dutch lady of fortune, birth, and accomplishments, he obtained an act of naturalization in that country; which incensed James so violently, that the court proceeded against him in a charge of high-treason, and a sentence of outlawry was passed upon him.

Burnet, however, now secure under the protection of the *States-general* (to which he had transferred his alle-

giance), rather irritated than soothed his enemies ; and on his being imperiously demanded by James, it was urged that he had become a subject of the United States, and that if he had committed any crime he was amenable only to their courts.

This put an end to all further application ; and Burnet, in forwarding the views of the prince of Orange, must have now considered himself not only as employed in securing the liberties of his country, but in redressing his own private wrongs. It is always dangerous and impolitic to injure or neglect a man of genius and talents ; for his resentment is commonly as keen, as his gratitude for favours is warm.

The deliverer of this country, the illustrious prince of Orange, having made all due preparations for his expedition, was attended by Burnet in the character of chaplain ; who, by his pulpit eloquence, and the papers which he drew up as an exposition of the prince's sentiments and intentions, was eminently instrumental, in rendering the Revolution as bloodless as it was glorious.

Such signal services did not long pass without reward. William had not been many days on the throne, before Dr. Burnet was promoted to the see of Salisbury. In parliament he distinguished himself by declaring for lenient measures towards such of the clergy as refused to take the oaths to William and Mary, and exerted his best abilities in promoting a legal toleration of the dissenters. So far his conduct exposed him to no obloquy ; but having incautiously admitted some words into his first pastoral letter, in which he seemed to ground the title of William on the right of conquest, — both houses of parliament, to show their detestation of such a doctrine, ordered the publication to be burnt by the hands of the common hangman.

Burnet, however, did not suffer politics to absorb all his attention. Having had the happiness to see the government settled on the firm foundation of rational liberty, he constantly secluded himself from its concerns, as soon as

the business of parliament was over : and, retiring to his diocese, by the most indefatigable zeal discharged the duties of his function : visiting, confirming, ordaining, and superintending, with a vigilance and assiduity very uncommon, and truly meritorious.

He was a declared enemy to pluralities ; except when the value of the livings was small, and their contiguity convenient. With regard to residence, he was peremptory and strict ; and this he enforced by his own example as much as by episcopal authority : for even when the king expressed a desire that during his absence abroad the bishop would attend and advise her majesty on occasion, this conscientious prelate would not accept of lodgings at Whitehall, but hired a house at Windsor, that he might still be within the limits of his diocese, and yet be able to attend at court when required.

Though his integrity and duty sometimes carried him beyond the bounds of courtly politeness, and the king felt the blunt freedom of his speech, yet he was held in the highest estimation, during the whole of that reign ; and as the strongest proof of exalted opinion which his majesty entertained of him, when it became necessary to settle the household of the young duke of Gloucester, the next but one in succession to the throne, Dr. Burnet was earnestly solicited to undertake the office of his preceptor ; and even with this honourable appointment he very reluctantly complied, lest it should withdraw him from the care of his diocese. Indeed, when he could excuse himself no longer, he pressed to resign his bishopric ; but on the refusal of this request, he stipulated that the duke should reside at Windsor during summer, and that he himself should be allowed ten weeks annually to discharge his pastoral office.

Under the tuition of such an able and judicious master, the young prince made a rapid progress ; but his premature death rendered all the labours of Burnet ineffectual, and clouded the prospects of the nation.

In the year 1699 the bishop published his famous Ex-

position of the thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England, a work which exposed him to many public and private attacks; but the numerous editions through which it has passed, show the sense generally entertained of its merits.

Having lost his second wife by the small-pox, he married a widow lady of great knowledge, piety, and virtue; and in whom his children found a valuable substitute for the natural parent they had been deprived of.

During the reign of queen Anne, he was less a favourite at court; but her majesty ever treated him with due respect, and encouraged him to speak his mind freely on national affairs. He showed himself on all occasions worthy of this confidence; and strenuously exerted himself in seating the present illustrious family on the throne, — an event which he had the happiness to see accomplished, before he was called from the stage of life.

After various ineffectual endeavours to better the situation of the clergy, he had the satisfaction at last to find his project for augmenting small livings carried into execution. The operation of queen Anne's bounty (as it is called) has certainly relieved much clerical distress; yet the ministers of religion have still a forlorn prospect, when a governor of this charity informs them that it will be three hundred years, before every living in England and Wales is raised to the value of an hundred pounds *per annum*. That government is bound to adopt some more efficacious measure in favour of the poorer clergy, will scarcely be disputed by any one who allows the utility and influence of this order of men; or who thinks that religion is the balm of life, and the passport to a happy immortality.*

Bishop Burnet, towards the close of life, became in some measure abstracted from that world which he was about to leave. When he had attained his seventy-second

* Since this was written, the slow operation of queen Anne's bounty has been quickened by several parliamentary grants, which, however, are still far inadequate to the object to be accomplished.

year, he was attacked with a cold, which, degenerating to a pleuritic fever, baffled all the aids of medicine, and speedily brought him to the grave. His senses were clear to the last; and exercises of devotion and affectionate advice to his family occupied his chief concern and attention. To him death appeared stripped of every terror: he hailed its approaches with joy. He was buried in the church of St. James, Clerkenwell; where a handsome monument was erected to his memory.

THE HISTORY OF HIS OWN TIMES (a work of various knowledge, but not exempt from symptoms of party virulence) was published after his decease, according to his express directions, without alteration or abridgment; and will still be read with pleasure, as a picture of a very interesting epoch in our annals. As a theologian and a controversial writer, he has likewise left many proofs of acuteness and diligence, of profound learning and extensive observation.

From his celebrated character by the illustrious marquis of Halifax, a few extracts shall be here subjoined. It was written by a contemporary; and has been allowed, by impartial judges, to be appropriate and fair.

“ Dr. Burnet, like all men who are above the ordinary level, is seldom spoken of in a medium; he must either be railed at, or admired. He has a swiftness of imagination that no other man comes up to. His first thoughts may sometimes require more digestion; not from a defect of his judgment; but from the abundance of his fancy, which furnishes matter too fast for him. His friends love him too well to heed small faults; or, if they do, think that his greater talents give him a privilege of straying from the strict rules of caution, and exempt him from the ordinary rules of censure. He is not quicker in discerning other men's faults, than he is in forgiving them; so ready, or rather glad, to acknowledge his own, that from blemishes they became ornaments. All the repeated provocations of his indecent adversaries, have had no other effect than the setting his good nature in so much better

a light, since his anger never yet went further than to pity them. That heat which in most other men raises sharpness and satire, in him glows into warmth for his friends, and compassion for those in want and misery.

“ He makes many enemies, by setting an ill-natured example of living which they are not inclined to follow. His indifference for preferment ; his contempt, not only of splendour, but of all unnecessary plenty ; his degrading himself into the lowest and most painful duties of his calling ; are such unprelatical qualities, that, let him be never so orthodox in other things, in these he must be a dissenter. Virtues of such a stamp are so many heresies, in the opinion of those divines who have softened the primitive injunctions, so as to make them suit better with the present frailty of mankind. No wonder then if they are angry, since it is in their own defence ; or that, from a principle of self-preservation, they should endeavour to suppress a man whose parts are a shame, and whose life is a scandal to them.”

WILLIAM PENN,

FOUNDER OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Born 1644. — Died 1718.

From 19th Charles I. to 4th George I.

To confine all merit to a particular religious persuasion, is certainly the mark of a little mind ; of a mind neither illumined by reason, nor influenced by Christianity. The bigot looks at principles alone, and condemns without mercy, those which do not exactly agree with his own. The man of virtue and understanding makes a candid allowance for the prejudices of education, or the fallibility of human judgment ; and in right practices, from whatever source they spring, sees much to love and to

admire. The former, in his narrow zeal, disregards good actions, the only incontestible proof of good principles; the latter, without suffering any improper bias to mislead him, judges of the tree according to its fruit.

Had Penn lived in the age of Solon or of Lycurgus, his name would have floated down the stream of time with theirs. As a legislator, it is impossible to deny him the tribute of unmixed applause; as a religionist, he rigidly adhered to the dictates of conscience, regardless of fortune or of fame; and therefore is entitled to respect and veneration, even from such as do not approve his particular tenets.

This extraordinary man, one of the original bulwarks of the society called Quakers, and the founder and legislator of Pennsylvania, was the son of admiral sir William Penn, the fortunate conqueror of Jamaica. He was born in London; and was educated partly under a domestic tutor, and partly at a school at Chigwell, in Essex. He appears to have had early and deep impressions of religion on his mind; and to have experienced, or fancied, divine communications, between the twelfth and fifteenth year of his age. About this period, too, it seems probable that he had been a hearer of one Thomas Loe, a quaker, who afterwards fixed him in the principles of that sect; and that the impression which he then received was never afterwards effaced from his heart. The ductile mind of youth, like the warm wax, is susceptible of any form; and first principles and prepossessions are well known to be with difficulty eradicated.

This was strongly exemplified in Penn, who in 1660 was admitted a gentleman-commoner of Christ-church, Oxford; but soon withdrawing from the national worship, and performing religious exercises in private with some other students of a serious disposition, he was first fined for non-conformity, (though then but sixteen years of age,) and afterwards expelled. His father was so much incensed at this conduct, which he considered as a bar to his future preferment, that when expostulation proved

ineffectual to alter his sentiments, he turned him out of doors. Relenting, however, on mature reflection, he tried the effects of a journey to the continent; in hopes that the peculiar religious notions of the young man would yield to the attractions of company, and a more enlarged knowledge of the world. After a considerable stay in France, young Penn returned an accomplished gentleman; and was received with joy by his father, whose affection for him appears to have been ardent and sincere. It is said, that during his residence in Paris, being assaulted one evening in the streets by a person with a drawn sword, he was so well skilled in fencing, that he disarmed his antagonist. This barbarous practice, however, he strongly reprobates in his writings; and, to mark its absurdity, opposes the consideration of a trifling insult, against the probable loss of life, and the crime of murder.

In the twenty-second year of his age, his father committed to his superintendence a considerable estate in Ireland. Here he accidentally found the same Thomas Loe, whose preaching had made such an early and lasting impression on his tender mind: and joining the society of quakers, who were then under persecution, he was committed to prison with some others, but soon released by the interposition of his father; who ordered him back to England, and again attempted to reclaim him, but in vain. He felt the strongest principles of duty to a fond parent: but his opinions were now so rooted, that he was absolutely inflexible to all remonstrances. In consequence, he was again cast on the wide world; and taking up the vocation of a public preacher among the quakers, he suffered various persecutions with a wonderful firmness and patience. The cause for which he suffered became endeared to him by every trial that he underwent; and thus opposition has sometimes made as many martyrs as conscience.

The admiral again attempted to come to an agreement with his son. He requested only that he would consen

(in opposition to the strict maxim of the quakers, which they still rigidly practise) to take off his hat in the presence of the king and the duke of York. Even this external mark of respect, as it violated one of the principles which he had adopted, was refused, as inconsistent with his duty. His father at last finding his perseverance to be the effect of pure though mistaken principle, received him again into his family without any concessions; and, dying soon after, left him a plentiful fortune. Notwithstanding the opposition which he had given to his son's religious conduct, with his dying breath he adjured him to do nothing contrary to his conscience: "So will you keep peace within," added he, "which will be a comfort in the day of trouble."

After enduring another imprisonment for attending a quaker meeting, he visited Holland and Germany; and met with a very flattering reception from the princess Elizabeth of Bohemia, daughter of James the First. His writings, his labours, and his sufferings, for some years, were various; but we now come to an epoch in his life which changed the complexion of his fortune, and gave a full display to his wisdom and his virtues.

Charles the Second, in 1681, as a compensation for services and sums due to his deceased father, conferred by patent on Mr. Penn and his heirs, the province of Pennsylvania, so called from his own name. The proprietor immediately drew up an impartial account of the climate and produce; and proposed very easy terms to settlers. Considering the royal grant, however, as conferring a title but not a right, he wrote in the most affectionate terms to the Indians, explaining his peaceable intentions, and expressing his wish to hold the lands not only by the king's patent, but also by their consent and love. Commissioners were accordingly named to carry his just and benevolent views into execution; while the natives, who were unaccustomed to be treated like men, listened with pleasure to the proposals made them, con-

ceived a high opinion of him, and entered into an amicable treaty, which was never violated.

The legal restraints under which some sects laboured in England at this period, and the persecution of others, served to people the new colony. A city to be named Philadelphia was laid out, according to a judicious and regular plan, and rapidly increased. Penn himself drew up the fundamental constitution of his province, in twenty-four articles; and in the following year, the scheme of its government. Had he never written any thing else, this alone would have been sufficient to render his fame immortal. In his regulations he not only displayed the soundest wisdom, but also the most amiable moderation and the warmest philanthropy. Though persecuted for his own religion, he shows his detestation of intolerance, not only from its moral impropriety, but from his inherent love of justice. All persons who acknowledged a Supreme Governor of the universe, and who held themselves obliged in conscience to live peaceably and justly in civil society, were to be neither molested nor prejudiced for their religious opinions. The same amiable disposition was displayed in settling the civil government, and establishing courts of justice. To prevent expensive lawsuits, he ordered three *peace-makers*, to be chosen by every county-court, to serve as common arbitrators. In short, during the two years' residence in his province, he settled its administration on the firmest basis of justice; he ingratiated himself with the Indians in an extraordinary degree; and taught his people, by example as well as precept, the advantage of diligence and economy, and the happiness of sobriety and order. He left Pennsylvania in 1684, with the affection of the settlers and the veneration of the Indians; and returned to England with his wife and family.

On the accession of James the Second, he was treated with much distinction at court; and therefore lay under the imputation of an attachment to popery, from which he fully exonerated himself: but on the Revolution he

was arrested on suspicion of corresponding with James examined before the council, and obliged to give security for his future appearance. He repeatedly underwent this vexation from false charges, which induced him at last to abscond; but after some time, being permitted to appear before the king and council, he vindicated his innocence with such spirit and effect, that his calumniators shrunk from their accusations. After travelling about the country, much as a public preacher, in 1699 he revisited Pennsylvania with his wife and family, where he intended to spend the remainder of his days; but in 1701 he was recalled to defend his proprietary right, which had been attacked in his absence. However, he supported his legal claims; and was highly respected by queen Anne, whose court he often visited. Here his persecution and his active labours ceased together. Age advancing with its accompanying infirmities, he quitted the vicinity of London, and settled at Ruscombe, in Berkshire; where he gradually declined, and at length quitted this sublunary scene in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

As a writer he evinced great good sense, except where it was obscured by the peculiarity of his religious creed. As a mild and beneficent man, of the purest virtue, integrity, and conscience, he is an honour to any religious society; and as a legislator, he is an honour to the country that produced him.

Though possessed of an ample fortune, it was reduced by his charity to those of his own sect, by the impositions which he suffered from ill-disposed persons, and the disinterestedness which he showed in raising a revenue from his province. When offered an impost by the colonists on certain goods, he returned thanks for this mark of affection, but declined its acceptance. He seemed to consider the settlers as his children; and thought it unbecoming a father to take from them any portion of their property.

At times his affairs were so deranged, that he was afraid of his creditors. A pleasant anecdote is recorded

on an occasion of this nature. He had contrived an aperture at his house in Norfolk-street, by which he could see any one at his door without being seen. A creditor having sent in his name, waited a long time for admission "Will not thy master see me?" said he, at last, to the servant. "Friend," replied the servant, "he *has* seen thee, but does not like thee."

JOSEPH ADDISON.

Born 1672. — Died 1719.

From 23d Charles II. to 5th George I

To select the brightest luminaries from the literary constellation which has gilded the British horizon, is a difficult and an invidious task. The limits of the present work admit only a few; and those, to come within its plan, must possess pre-eminence of genius, or have been signally favoured by fortune. Many have gained the height of renown in the republic of letters; but scanty is the number of those who, like Addison, have risen, principally by literature, to an exalted post in the state. His life, therefore, independently of its own excellence, will convey many a moral lesson. It is calculated to inspire hope and emulation, by the proof that eminent desert will frequently be crowned with reward; it is also calculated to repress the vain ambition of shining in every sphere, when it is evident that Addison neither increased his fame nor his happiness by the elevated public rank which he acquired.

This inimitable writer was son to the dean of Lichfield; and first saw the light at Milston, near Ambresbury, in Wiltshire, of which place his father was rector. When he came into the world, his stay in it was likely to be so very

short, that he was instantly baptized; indeed, some say, that he was laid out for dead as soon as born.

The first rudiments of education he received under a clergyman, at the place of his nativity. He was then successively removed to Salisbury, Lichfield, and the Charter-house schools. At the last excellent seminary of classical learning, he pursued his juvenile studies with extraordinary success; and here he contracted an intimacy with sir Richard Steele, which the similarity of taste and pursuits rendered almost as durable as their lives.

Addison was scarcely fifteen years of age, when he was sent to Queen's college, Oxford. Here his application to classical learning continued without intermission. He had already acquired an elegant Latin style: and some of his verses in that language falling into the hands of Dr. Lancaster, of Magdalen college, he entertained such a high opinion of the writer's genius, that he procured Addison admission into his own college, where the accomplished youth attained the degrees of bachelor and master of arts; and he is still considered as one of the most illustrious characters, which that respectable society has sent forth.

His reputation for Latin poetry, which however is rather calculated to show the classical scholar than the man of genius, soon spread over the university; and many elegant specimens of his performances, in this way, are still extant in the *Musarum Anglicanarum Analecta*.

Notwithstanding the acknowledged purity of his English style, he is said to have been twenty-two years of age before he made himself conspicuous by any composition in his native tongue. No sooner, however, had he attempted English poetry, than his reputation was considerably increased; as more persons were thus qualified to estimate his merits. He attracted the notice of Dryden, and the friendship of Sacheverel, by his writings; but what led to more important consequences, was his poem on one of king William's campaigns, addressed to the lord-keeper Somers. This great statesman received the

young writer's advances with great politeness, and took him under his immediate and entire protection. Addison had intimated that the patronage of Somers would be acceptable, and it was his good fortune to obtain it. By his favour, and that of Mr. Montague, chancellor of the exchequer, who both discerned his fine genius, and wished to give it the last polish, he received an annual pension of three hundred pounds; by which he was able to make the fashionable tour through the different countries of Europe.

Addison had been pressingly solicited by his college friends to enter into holy orders; but his political patrons diverted him from this intention, and he set out on his travels in 1699. After staying a year at Blois to make himself master of the French language, he proceeded to Italy; which he travelled through, and afterwards described with the eye and the fancy of a poet. His poetical epistle to Montague, lord Halifax, from that country, is one of the most finished productions of his genius, and its beauties have occasioned it to be translated into several languages. While it breathes the spirit of independent gratitude, it evinces his classical genius and love of liberty, and is equally honourable to the poet and his patron.

Mr. Addison returned in 1703; and his political friends being either removed or in disgrace, his pension was withheld, and his prospects for a time seemed to be clouded. Fortune, however, took him up at this crisis; and his abilities secured the advantage which she gave him.

The victory at Blenheim had justly spread triumph and confidence over the nation; but it had yet not been celebrated by a poet worthy of such a lofty theme. Lord Godolphin lamented this to Lord Halifax; and expressed a wish that the latter, who was a poet himself, would recommend some genius qualified for doing justice to the subject. Halifax immediately recollected his friend Addison; commended his merit and ingenuity; and gave lord Godolphin so effectually the impression which he intended.

that the young poet was solicited to engage in this task; and executed it perfectly to the satisfaction of his noble employer, who in return appointed him commissioner of appeals.

Next year his *Travels* were published, and dedicated to lord Somers. At first they met with an indifferent reception: the classical allusions and quotations were too frequent for common readers; but real judges instantly recognised their merit, and in a short time it would have appeared unfashionable not to admire them.

About the same time Mr. Addison attended lord Halifax to Hanover; and in 1706 was made under-secretary of state, in which capacity he officiated both under sir Charles Hedges, and his successor the earl of Sunderland.

The lovers of the opera now importuned Addison to try whether sense and sound, under his auspices, might not be rendered compatible. To oblige them, he composed his inimitable *Rosamond*, which was dedicated to the duchess of Marlborough: but so strongly were the public prejudiced in favour of the Italian operas, that the genius of Addison, and the pure taste of a few distinguished judges, could not banish the absurdity of listening to a language, which even at this day not one in twenty understands; and to a species of music which still fewer, though taught by habit to commend it, can really feel.

When the marquis of Wharton was appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland in 1709, he made Mr. Addison his secretary; and the queen conferred on him the office of keeper of the records in that kingdom, with an increase of salary.

Soon after this, Steele commenced the periodical publication of the *Tatler*; and Addison, having discovered that the author was his early friend, voluntarily lent his assistance. His communications indeed were so valuable, that Steele candidly confessed, "he fared like a distressed prince who calls in a powerful auxiliary." The superiority of Addison's genius, and his taste in fine prose writing,

were so supreme, that Steele, though the original projector of that immortal work, shrunk into a secondary rank in respect to it.

The change of ministry which afterwards took place, again left Addison more at liberty to cultivate elegant literature: and no sooner was the *TATLER* laid down, than, in concert with Steele, he brought out that matchless periodical paper the *SPECTATOR*, the most capital and popular of all his works; and which, though much occupied with political and temporary allusions and details, is still read with pleasure and advantage, and will continue to instruct and improve as long as the English language exists.

The *Guardian*, another periodical production in the same taste, followed the *Spectator*; and in this too the papers written by Mr. Addison were particularly admired. He wrote a few other fugitive essays about this time; but a principal effort of his genius was the tragedy of *Cato*, which he produced in 1713.

The plan of this masterly performance he had formed some years before, and had written a great part of it during his travels: but his friends thinking it might be serviceable to the cause of liberty to bring it forth about this time, he set about fitting it for the stage; and its success was almost unparalleled in the history of the drama. It was performed thirty-five nights successively, with the loudest applauses of both the opposite political parties: it was quickly translated into other languages; and has gained the highest celebrity for its exquisite poetry, and the interest which it excites in every breast, not callous to the feelings of patriotism and of liberty. Queen Anne was so charmed with the piece, that she expressed her desire of having it dedicated to her; but Addison being before engaged in this respect, avoided violating either his duty or his honour, and published it without any dedication.

On the death of the queen, which happened soon after, this zealous champion of liberty was made secretary to

the lords-justices, in whose hands the regency was vested till the arrival of George the First. In this character it became his duty to announce the queen's death, and the vacancy of the throne, to the court of Hanover. To a man of less genius this would have been an easy matter: but Addison was so distracted by choice of expression, and by balancing the niceties of language, that the lords-justices lost all patience, and ordered a clerk to execute the task; which he, in the common forms, easily accomplished. Addison, however, employed his pen to great advantage in defence of the established government, in a paper entitled the *Freeholder*; and the court were so sensible of his virtuous and able exertions, that he was made one of the lords of trade.

In 1716, he married the countess-dowager of Warwick, after a long and anxious courtship; but he found no addition to his happiness in this splendid alliance. The countess, it is said, presuming on her high rank, treated her husband with little respect; and he, conscious of a dignity which neither wealth nor power could confer, must have felt this vain insolence with peculiar keenness. The next year he was made secretary of state; but this as little increased his felicity or his credit. He soon felt himself utterly unfit for the weighty duties of that office. He could neither speak in defence of a public measure without hesitation, nor dictate a dispatch, without the confusion of modest doubt. The accomplished scholar and the minister are often opposite characters; and it is no degradation to Addison to say, that he did not possess a versatility of genius which qualified him for every station. He saw his defects, and solicited leave to resign; which was granted him, with a pension of fifteen hundred pounds a year.

He now retired from the bustle of business; and, wisely consulting his ease and health, began to plan literary occupations for the remainder of his days. Among other schemes which he devised to charm the tedium of retirement, were a tragedy on the death of Socrates, and an

English dictionary. The former appears to allow little scope for stage effect; and on the latter, fortunately, he did not waste that time which could be more valuably employed. He engaged, however, in a noble design, of which he left a part executed, in the *Evidences of Christianity*. Politics he had entirely discarded; yet he was drawn into their vortex once more when near his end, and had for his antagonist sir Richard Steele. The subject of dispute was the peerage-bill, introduced by the earl of Sunderland. The contest was agitated with great vehemence; though it was not of sufficient consequence to create animosity between two indifferent private persons, much less between two friends whose name will descend conjointly to the latest posterity with honour and applause. Steele, in the controversy, did not forget his character as a gentleman or as a former friend; but Addison made use of sarcasm, if not contempt for his opponent. It is painful for a generous mind to reflect, that those illustrious writers, after so many years of confidence and endearment, of conformity of opinion and fellowship in study, should at last thus part in acrimonious opposition.

But political animosity, and even the more meritorious energies of a virtuous mind, were about to cease in Addison. He had long been subject to an asthma; which, now becoming aggravated by a dropsy, gave him the sure presage of inevitable dissolution. With this prospect before him, he summoned up all his resolution; and prepared to die in conformity to the precepts which he had taught, and the principles which had directed his conduct. He forgave such as had injured him, and requested the forgiveness of those whom he had himself wronged. After a long and patient but vain struggle with his mortal disorder, he dismissed his physicians, and with them all hopes of life; but his regard for the living was still as warm as in the happiest of his hours. The young earl of Warwick, his son-in-law, gave way too much to youthful passions; and Addison had tried in vain, by the most affectionate arguments, to reclaim him. He now sent for

him, when his own flame of life was just glimmering in the socket. The earl came; and after a decent pause, said, "Dear sir, you sent for me. I believe and hope you have some commands; I shall hold them most sacred." Grasping his hand, the dying philosopher softly replied, "See in what peace a Christian can die!" He spoke this with difficulty; his pulse then ceased to beat, and he expired.

Mr. Tickell had the charge of publishing his posthumous works; which, with those that appeared in his lifetime, are too numerous to be here particularised, but are all excellent. Of Addison it has been justly observed, that he employed wit on the side of religion, restored Virtue to her dignity, and taught Innocence not to be ashamed. This is an elevation of literary character "above all Greek, above all Roman fame." No greater felicity can genius obtain, than that of having purified intellectual pleasures, separated mirth from indecency, and wit from licentiousness; of having taught a succession of writers to bring elegance and gaiety to the aid of goodness, and of having converted many from vice and the error of their ways.

JOHN CHURCHILL,

DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH,

AND PRINCE OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

Born 1650. — Died 1722.

From 2d Charles II. to 8th George I.

Immortal chief! of Albion's isle the pride,
By martial deeds to greatest names allied;
Renown'd for valour, as for mercy lov'd,
The highest pitch of human bliss you prov'd:

Gain'd the bright meed without the conscious stain,
 And wore the laurel, unalloy'd with pain.
 Unlike those pests who fought for fame alone;
 To 'slave a nation, or to mount a throne;
 You drew the sword, the injur'd to defend,
 To aid the helpless, and the proud to bend.
 Be this your fame; nor could the favouring Nine
 Grace with a praise more noble, more divine.

BLENNHEIM, a Poem.

OF this illustrious ornament and bulwark of his country and of Europe, it is almost impossible to speak but in the language of panegyric. Equally fitted for the cabinet and the field; formed to shine at the levee, and to spread the terror of his arms over hostile nations; in whatever light we contemplate the character of Churchill, he will appear one of those few men whom nature has gifted with extraordinary endowments, and fortune propitiously indulged with an opportunity of displaying them. His achievements, however, fill such an ample space, that his career can here be only glanced at with a rapidity emblematic of his success; but far unworthy of his deserts, did his fame rest on the present attempt to do him justice. Yet the most superficial sketch of his life can scarcely fail to inspire the ardent emotions of glory and of heroism.

This great man was the second son of sir Winston Churchill, of Dorsetshire; a gentleman of tried loyalty, for which he greatly suffered. His mother was a daughter of sir John Drake, of Ashe, in Devonshire; at whose castle the hero was born.

He received the first rudiments of his education under a clergyman in the vicinity: but his elder brother dying, his father, who enjoyed considerable posts at court under Charles the Second, judged it expedient to introduce him into early life; and at twelve years of age, he was made page of honour to the duke of York, by whom he was much caressed and zealously patronised.

About 1666 he received a pair of colours in the guards; and never was the bent of genius more happily

consulted, than by indulging his early bias for the profession of arms. This soon proved to be his delight and his glory. Having obtained leave to serve at Tangier, then besieged by the Moors, he signalised himself in various skirmishes with that nation; and on his return to court, was equally a favourite with Charles and with the duke of York.

In 1672, when the duke of Monmouth commanded a body of auxiliaries in the service of France, Mr. Churchill attended him, and was promoted to the rank of captain of grenadiers in his grace's own regiment. In all the actions of that famous campaign against the Dutch, he had his full share of danger and of glory; and was particularly distinguished by marshal Turenne, who gave him the appellation of "the handsome Englishman;" a title which he long retained among the French. Here his military talents began to display themselves; and on the reduction of Maestricht, the French king personally thanked him at the head of the line, and promised to acquaint his own sovereign with his merits. The duke of Monmouth too was eager to second this honourable testimony of his courage and conduct; and the road to preferment being once opened, his worth, prudence, and accomplishments, secured the rest.

It is, however, deserving of remark, that Churchill was considerably indebted for his original reputation and success, to the recommendation of a monarch, whom he afterwards humbled in the severest manner. Such are the vicissitudes of life and the caprices of fortune, that no one can tell into what situation he may be cast. The patriotism of Churchill, in the sequel, obliged him to desert his warm benefactor, the duke of York; and to combat that nation in whose service he had gathered his first laurels.

He speedily rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel; and was appointed gentleman of the bedchamber to the duke of York, and master of the robes. From the political contests of the times, he prudently kept himself at a dis-

tance; but when his master was obliged to retire for a season, he attended him till a calm permitted him to return.

While he waited on the duke in Scotland, he was complimented with a regiment of dragoons: and soon after married miss Sarah Jennings, of Sandridge in Hertfordshire, one of the most beautiful and accomplished ladies of the court, and in the household of the princess Anne; in whose service she long continued, and acted a very conspicuous part in the great scenes of her subsequent reign.

In a short time after he had strengthened his influence by this connection, he was raised to the dignity of the peerage, by the title of lord Churchill of Eymouth, in Scotland. On the accession of the duke of York to the throne, by the title of James the Second, whose unabated favour he enjoyed, his lordship was sent ambassador to France to notify this event, and was continued in all his posts. On his return he assisted at the coronation; and, as a further pledge of royal regard, was created a peer of England, in May, 1685, by the title of baron Churchill of Sandridge.

A month after this new addition of honour, being then brigadier-general, he was sent into the west under the earl of Feversham, to suppress the duke of Monmouth's rebellion. This business he accomplished with celerity and success; and his reception at court was suitable to the service which he had performed. There is good reason for supposing, that lord Churchill from this time saw the intention of the deluded James to overawe the nation by a standing army, and to subvert their liberties; but neither gratitude to an indulgent master, nor allegiance to his sovereign, could overcome the superior duty which he owed to his country. Though it is probable that the struggle between the partial attachment to his master, and the higher obligations of conscience, was long and severe, his lordship was guilty of no mean compliances; and when he perceived too plainly that the devoted king

was rushing to ruin, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his best friends, he joined in the application made to the prince and princess of Orange, inviting them to rescue the British nation from popery and slavery.

James, however, continued to place such confidence in lord Churchill, that on the landing of the prince of Orange, he gave him the command of a brigade of five thousand men; nor would he listen to any insinuations against his favourite, though the earl of Feversham had dropped an intimation of the suspected disaffection of his mind.

In this situation, in which a wise man would hesitate, and a good man feel some difficulty how to act, lord Churchill acquitted himself with his usual prudence and address. Animated by the purest patriotism, though with all the honourable feelings of personal attachment to James, he singly went over to the prince of Orange; and transmitted a letter to the king, which shows the conflict he had suffered between his love and his duty. He therein painted the necessity which the latter imposed on him, of acting contrary to his gratitude and his former allegiance; and, with a delicate hand, pointed to the causes which had led to this important catastrophe.

That lord Churchill was actuated solely by a sense of duty, and entertained the highest ideas of honour, is apparent from this circumstance: he betrayed no trust; he carried off no troops; and gave notice of his allegiance being dissolved, before he entered on a new service. The prince of Orange appreciated his merits as they deserved, and received him with open arms. He invested him with the rank of lieutenant-general; and was indebted not only to the military services of this accomplished officer in the reduction of Cork and Kinsale; but in a very essential degree to his influence, and that of his lady, with the princess of Denmark (James's other daughter) and her husband, who had also joined the banners of liberty.

As soon as the new government was settled, lord Churchill was sworn of the privy-council, made one of

the gentlemen of the bed-chamber, and created earl of Marlborough.

Soon after the coronation, king William, being obliged to fight for the support of his crown in Ireland, appointed the earl of Marlborough commander-in-chief of the English forces in Holland. In the battle of Walcourt, fought August 15, 1689, he gave such extraordinary proofs of military genius, that the prince of Waldeck publicly declared, that he saw more into the art of war in a single day, than some generals in many years. On this occasion he laid the solid foundation of his fame among foreigners. King William, who was also a warrior himself, and an excellent judge of merit, was pleased to compliment him, by saying, that he knew no man so fit for a general, who had seen so few campaigns.

Yet notwithstanding his shining talents and his recent services, it was his fate to experience the versatility of a court. In 1691 he was suddenly stript of all his employments; and some vile conspirators taking advantage of his disgrace, he was committed to the Tower with several other noblemen on a charge of treason. This allegation was so palpably false, that he was quickly liberated; and the miscreants who had advanced it, were in the sequel condemned to the pillory: but he still remained under a cloud, though no probable reason can now be assigned for it; unless it was that he interested himself too warmly in favour of the princess Anne, whom their majesties wished to keep in a state of dependence.

After the death of queen Mary, king William and the princess entertained more amicable sentiments for each other; and the earl of Marlborough was not only recalled to the privy-council, but appointed governor to the young duke of Gloucester, (only son of the princess Anne,) with this high compliment from the king: "Make him but what you are, and my nephew will be all I wish to see him." In this honourable office, the earl acquitted himself to the entire satisfaction of all parties; but the young prince dying in the eleventh year of his age, all hoped

were destroyed of seeing a protestant successor in the family of Stuart; and by the act of succession, the crown reverted, after the death of his mother, to the house of Hanover.

The earl of Marlborough was soon after called to more public employ; being appointed commander-in-chief of the English forces in Holland, and ambassador-extraordinary to the United States. The scene now began to open which displayed his talents in their full lustre, and crowned him with never-fading laurels. Philip, a grandson of the house of France, united to the interest, directed by the policy, and supported by the arms of that crown, was placed on the throne of Spain. King William beheld this formidable coalition of two great, and once rival, monarchies, with jealous apprehension. At the close of a life spent in supporting the liberties of Europe, he saw them in the greatest danger; and provided for their security in the most effectual manner, by recommending the earl of Marlborough to the princess Anne, as the most proper person to command the army which was to support the balance of power, and prevent the fetters of slavery from being riveted on Europe.

After concerting measures with the States, who also appointed him captain-general of their forces, with a liberal salary, war was declared on the 4th of May, 1702, and the earl of Marlborough opened the campaign.

To detail the illustrious actions of this great general during the space of ten years, would be to write the history of Europe for that period; and no summary can convey any adequate idea of their importance. History has recorded the triumphs of Marlborough in indelible characters: they vie with those of the greatest generals of either ancient or modern times.

As a mark of gratitude for his transcendent services, he was in 1702 created marquis of Blandford and duke of Marlborough; and after the battle of Blenheim, which was fought with unparalleled bravery and success on the 2d of August, 1704, the queen, with the concurrence of

parliament, granted him the manor of Woodstock ; to be for ever held by the tenure of presenting to the queen, her heirs and successors, on the anniversary of the day on which the victory was achieved, at the castle of Windsor, a standard with three fleurs-de-lys painted thereon. Orders were likewise issued to the comptroller of the public works, to erect a magnificent palace for the duke, which received the appellation of Blenheim ; and which remains a splendid memorial of national gratitude and munificence, to the hero who had deserved so well of his country.

But though the actions of the duke of Marlborough, performed in the compass of a few years, were sufficient to adorn the annals of ages ; though by him the glory of Britain was raised to such a height as might for ever have secured his own ; he experienced, in the end, that opposition at home, which rendered his situation irksome ; and paid in full the tax which envy and malice are sure to lay on exalted worth. His most glorious exploits, his best views and designs, were misrepresented by a faction who wished to supersede his influence at any rate ; and who at last succeeded in dispossessing the duke's friends of that controul in the government which was necessary to confirm his operations, and to support the glory which he had acquired.

The people too, intoxicated with victory, became languid in support of the war, and by degrees grew clamorous for peace. Negotiations were set on foot more than once ; but the enemy, though bleeding at every pore, and seeing their very vitals in danger, trusted to discordant counsels in the British cabinet for better terms ; and, on the removal of the duke from his high command, for a change of fortune. The private malice, and the mercenary aims of a party, co-operated with the wishes of the French court, and gave confidence to their hopes. A treaty of pacification was begun, on a basis which the duke of Marlborough could not approve ; as neither promising permanent security, nor advantages proportionate to our

victories. He nobly avowed his sentiments to her majesty; adding, that as he could not concur in the measures of those who now directed her councils, he would not distract them by a fruitless opposition : but being attacked in the house of lords on the charge of having protracted the war from interested motives, he vindicated his conduct with such dignity and spirit, that the ministry strained every nerve to procure his dismissal from all his employments; which in the sequel they effected, to their own disgrace, and the essential injury of the country.

Being abandoned by the queen, assailed by the clamour of the populace, and traduced by hired libellers (who are ever ready to espouse the cause of any ministry, and to insult where they can escape with impunity), his grace thought proper to retire, and to gratify his enemies by a voluntary exile. So little dependence can be placed on popular applause, so little is the highest merit regarded, when the fluctuating tide of opinion begins to change, that a bad man may meet with acclamations where he deserves censure, and a good man hisses where he is entitled to praise. The duke of Marlborough was too well acquainted with life, to expect unalloyed satisfaction or unvarying favour in a public station. He knew that in proportion to a man's exaltation, will be the probability of his future depression ; and that the more signally he is distinguished, the more he will be envied or traduced. He quitted the scene of contention and of temporary ingratitude, with the same heroic firmness which he had displayed, when combating the enemies of his country ; and landing at Ostend, was received every where, both in Germany and Flanders, with the loudest plaudits, and all the honours due to his rank and character. On this occasion he visited the principality of Mindelheim, which had been conferred on him by the emperor ; but which was afterwards restored to the elector of Bavaria by the treaty of Rastadt, in consequence of the duke's leaving no male issue.

His most virulent opponents, being now freed from apprehension by his absence, gradually lost their fury, and

softened into candour. The peace which had been concluded was far from restoring harmony among the queen's ministers ; and it is said that part of them entered into negotiations with the duke to induce his return, in hopes to benefit by his assistance, in extricating them from the difficulties in which they were involved. It is certain, that his grace having spent nearly two years on the continent, entered London three days after the queen's death ; and was received with all possible demonstrations of joy.

On the arrival of king George the First, the duke was distinguished in a manner equal to his deserts, and to the munificence of a sovereign who knew how to appreciate them. He was restored to all the principal commands with which he had at any time been invested ; and his advice was of most essential value, in crushing the rebellion in the year 1715. This was the last effort of his talents in public affairs. Broken by the fatigues of a laborious military life, and bending under the infirmities incident to declining years, he quitted the busy scene, and spent the small remainder of his days in privacy and retirement.

He died at Windsor-lodge, in the seventy-third year of his age, and was interred with the highest solemnities in Westminster-abbey : whence his remains were afterwards removed, and deposited in the chapel at Blenheim ; where a noble monument is erected to his memory, and to that of his duchess.

His grace had the misfortune to lose his only son, the marquis of Blandford, while a student at Cambridge. He left, however, four daughters, who married into the best families in the kingdom ; and his estates and honours being entailed, by act of parliament, on the female line in succession, they are now vested in the descendants of the earl of Sunderland, who married the second daughter.

On the pedestal of a stately pillar, raised to the honour of his grace in Blenheim-park, is a masterly delineation of his character and achievements, supposed to be drawn

by lord Bolingbroke ; an extract from which is here subjoined, equally elegant and just.

John, duke of Marlborough,
 The hero, not only of his nation, but his age ;
 Whose glory was equal in the council and in the field ;
 Who by wisdom, justice, candour, and address,
 Reconciled various and even opposite interests ;
 Acquired an influence
 Which no rank, no authority can give,
 Nor any force but that of superior virtue :
 Became the fixed important centre,
 Which united in one common cause
 The principal states of Europe ;
 Who by military knowledge, and irresistible valour
 In a long series of uninterrupted triumphs,
 Broke the power of France
 When raised the highest, when exalted the most,
 Rescued the Empire from desolation,
 Asserted and confirmed the liberties of Europe.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON,
 THE PHILOSOPHER OF THE UNIVERSE.

Born 1642. — Died 1726.

From 17th Charles I. to 12th George I.

ALL intellectual eye, our polar round
 First gazing through, he, by the blended power
 Of gravitation and projection, saw
 The whole in silent harmony revolve :
 From unassisted vision hid, the moons,
 To cheer remoter planets numerous form'd,
 By him in all their mingled tracts were seen.
 He also fix'd our wandering queen of night ;
 Whether she wanes into a scanty orb,
 Or, waxing broad, with her pale shadowy light,
 In a soft deluge overflows the sky.
 Her every motion clear discerning, he

Adjusted to the mutual main, and taught
 Why now the mighty mass of water swells,
 Resistless heaving on the broken rocks,
 And the full river turning ; till again
 The tide revertive, unattracted, leaves
 A yellow waste of idle sands behind.

Then breaking hence, he took his ardent flight
 Through the blue infinite, and every star
 Which the clear concave of a winter's night
 Pours on the eye, or astronomic tube
 Far stretching snatches from the dark abyss ;
 Or such as farther in successive skies
 To fancy shine alone ; at his approach
 Blas'd into suns : the living centre each
 Of an harmonious system, all combin'd
 And rul'd unerring by that single power
 Which draws the stone projected to the ground.

* * * * *

He, first of men, with awful wing pursu'd
 The comet through the long elliptic curve ;
 As round innum'rous worlds he wound his way
 Till, to the forehead of our evening sky
 Return'd, the blazing wonder glares anew,
 And o'er the trembling nation shakes dismay

* * * * *

Th' ærial flow of sound was known to him ;
 From whence it first in wavy circles breaks,
 Till the touch'd organ takes the message in.
 Nor could the darting beam of speed immense
 Escape his swift pursuit and measuring eye.
 Ev'n light itself, which every thing displays,
 Shone undiscover'd till his brighter mind
 Untwisted all the shining robe of day ;
 And from the whitening undistinguish'd blaze
 Collecting every ray into his kind,
 To the charm'd eye educ'd the gorgeous train
 Of parent colours.

THOMSON'S *Poem on the Death of Newton.*

For a man whose discoveries embrace nothing less than the universe itself, it cannot be expected to find here an equate account. The poet Thomson has in the above tract enumerated his principal philosophical labours ; and

the young reader must be satisfied with a rapid sketch of his life and character. As his genius soars above all competition, so also his amiable qualities invite respect and imitation : we are at once enlightened by his talents, and amended by his virtues.

Isaac Newton, one of the greatest philosophers and mathematicians that the world ever produced, was descended from an ancient family, which had been seated for nearly three centuries on the manor of Wolsthorpe, near Grantham, in Lincolnshire, where this prodigy of science was born, on Christmas-day, 1642. He lost his father while in his infancy ; but his mother's brother, a clergyman in the vicinity, directed the affairs of the family for some time, and put the young philosopher to school at Grantham. Having gone through a grammatical education, his mother took him home ; intending that he should be brought up to occupy his paternal estate of about a hundred and twenty pounds a year, as his ancestors had done for ages. But fortunately for the world, the peculiar genius of Newton began even at this early age to discover itself. His uncle accidentally found him in a hay-loft working a mathematical problem ; and thus perceiving the impulse of the boy's mind for learning, judiciously resolved that it should not be diverted from its object. Newton was sent to Trinity college, Cambridge ; where the penetrating eye of Dr. Isaac Barrow soon discovered the vast genius of the student, and their acquaintance ripened into a friendship which was propitious to his progress and his fame.

Euclid, beyond whose ELEMENTS, the mathematical attainments of most learners never extend, was scarcely the study of a week to Newton. With an intuitive clearness of intellect, he understood the deepest problems of that author as soon as he read them. He advanced at once into the higher regions of geometry ; and it is no less astonishing than true, that he had laid the foundation of his two immortal works, the PRINCIPIA, and OPTICS,

before he had completed the twenty-fourth year of his age.

But such was the steady judgment of Newton, and his amiable diffidence of his own powers, that he was elevated by no vanity ; nor did he wish to obtrude his discoveries on the public. Satisfied with academic honours, and the applause of a few judges in a point on which those few were competent to decide, he waved all pretensions to public fame ; and examined every part of his theories with rigorous severity, before he could be induced to submit them to the world.

On the resignation of his patron and friend, Dr. Barrow, he was chosen mathematical professor in 1669 ; before which period he had discovered the doctrine of FLUXIONS, a doctrine that facilitated his acquaintance with the most sublime parts of geometry. The same year, he read a course of optical lectures ; and soon after began a correspondence with the Royal Society, to which he communicated some curious observations.

The most capital discoveries have as frequently been the result of fortuitous thought, as of patient investigation. When a happy incident gives rise to an original idea, genius pursues it to its remotest consequences, and through all its ramifications. The theory of the universe, which Newton solidly demonstrated, is said to have been suggested by a very trivial circumstance. As he was sitting alone in a garden, the falling of some apples from a tree led him into a speculation on the power of gravity ; and he reflected, that as this power is not sensibly diminished at the remotest distance to which we can rise from the centre of the earth, it was reasonable to conclude, that the same principle is extended through all matter. By pursuing this train of ideas, and comparing the periods of the several planets with their distances from the sun, he found that if any power resembling gravity held them in their courses, its strength must decrease, in a proportion to the increased distance.

This inquiry, which afterwards produced the most sub-

lime discoveries, was resumed again and again ; and every experiment which he tried, and every appearance in nature, confirming his theories, in 1687 his MATHEMATICAL PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY were completed and published, under the auspices of the Royal Society. So great was Newton's modesty, that he did not choose to risk a publication of such high importance without the concurrence of the most learned men in the kingdom ; and the event justified his prudence. The book was at first far from meeting with that universal applause, which it was destined ultimately to receive. The pleasing but visionary hypothesis of Descartes had then obtained full celebrity ; and Newton's theories were too sublime to be comprehended at once, even by the acutest minds. But no sooner were his principles understood, than they extorted general assent to their truth ; and the voice of applause rose with increased energy, from every country where genuine science was diffused.

The same year in which this grand work made its appearance, he proved himself one of the most zealous defenders of his university against the unconstitutional attacks of James the Second : and soon after was chosen one of its members in the convention parliament.

In 1696, by the interest of Mr. Montague, chancellor of the exchequer, who loved and patronised genius, he was appointed warden of the mint, and three years after was raised to be master ; which office he retained to the end of his life, and in which situation he was of signal service to his country, particularly in the then depreciated state of the coinage. He now appointed Mr. Whiston, his deputy, as professor of mathematics at Cambridge, with the full salary ; and soon after resigned wholly in favour of that able, but imprudent man.

In 1703 he was chosen president of the Royal Society ; and, without intending the slightest reflection on present or past times, it may be affirmed that this office was never so respectably filled. He had previously been elected a member of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris ; for

the French, notwithstanding the predilection natural to every nation in favour of its own heroes and philosophers, soon relinquished the fanciful philosophy of their countryman Descartes, for the solid principles of Newton.

Since he had discovered the heterogeneous mixture of light, and the production of colours thus formed, much of his time had been employed in perfecting and ascertaining the theory on which his discovery was founded. In fact, this seems to have been his favourite invention ; and he spent no less than thirty years in verifying his own experiments. At last his OPTICS appeared, in 1704 ; and in this science he stands unrivalled and alone. In his fluxions, and his principle of gravity as applied to the solar system, there had been some obscure hints from others : but in dissecting a ray of light into its primary constituent particles, which then admitted of no further separation ; in the discovery of the different refrangibility of these particles when thus separated ; and, in short, in the whole mystery of optics which he developed ; he was at once the original inventor and the finisher. Together with his Optics he published his FLUXIONS, which had also long engaged his attention. From his aversion to literary disputes, he concealed this latter discovery so long, that Leibnitz attempted to claim the merit of the original invention ; but in this he was completely foiled, by the zeal and industry of Newton's friends.

Queen Anne, as a testimony of her approbation of his exalted merit, conferred the honour of knighthood on Newton, in 1705 : and during the reign of George the First, he received the most flattering attentions from Caroline princess of Wales ; who, having a taste for philosophical enquiries, courted his conversation with amiable condescension ; and was often heard to declare that she considered herself happy, in living in the same age with sir Isaac Newton.

The princess obtained from him a copy of a chronological work which he had drawn up for his own amusement, but with no design of committing it to the press.

Probably with a view to extend his fame, she allowed a transcript to be taken in confidence ; but a person who surreptitiously obtained possession of this treasure, printed it in France, and involved our philosopher in some disputes, which it had been the whole study of his life to shun. Yet even Newton could not expect to extinguish envy before the grave : he felt himself attacked more than once ; but the shaft which was aimed at him, generally recoiled on the assailant, or fell pointless to the ground.

After enjoying a settled and uniform state of health, the result of temperance and regularity, to the age of eighty, sir Isaac began to be afflicted with a disorder which was afterwards found to be incurable ; and the attacks of which were sometimes so violent, that large drops of sweat followed each other down his face. Under these afflicting circumstances, his character as a philosopher and as a Christian was equally conspicuous. Not a murmur escaped from his lips : he dissembled the acutest feelings of pain ; and in the intervals of ease, displayed all the cheerfulness and good-humour, which had ever been the constant residents of his breast. Nature being at last worn out, he resigned his breath in the eighty-fifth year of his age ; and was honoured with a splendid funeral and a monument in Westminster-abbey.

Sir Isaac Newton was of a middling stature, and towards the decline of life disposed to corpulency. His countenance was venerably pleasing, but discovered little of that penetrating sagacity which marked his compositions. He never had occasion to use spectacles ; and it is said that he lost only one tooth during his life.


In contemplating the various excellences of his profound genius ; sagacity, penetration, energy of mind, and diligence, seem to vie with each other, so that it is difficult to say for which of those endowments he was most conspicuous : yet with unaffected modesty, he disclaimed all singular pretensions to superior talents ; and observed to one of his friends, who was complimenting him on his

sublime discoveries, that if he had done any thing in science worthy of notice, it was owing to patient industry of thinking, rather than to extraordinary ~~st~~ st ~~city~~ ^{city} above other men. "I keep," said he, "the subject constantly before me; and wait till the first dawns open slowly, by little and little, into a full and clear light." Unvarying and unwearied attention, indeed, to any object, will in time accomplish great things; but no perseverance, without an uncommon share of original genius, could form a Newton.

His temper is said to have been remarkably mild and equable, and incapable of being ruffled by ordinary accidents. He was such a lover of peace, that he regretted whatever disturbed it as the greatest calamity that could befall him. When some objections were started to his theory of light and colours, he thus expressed his concern: "I blamed my own imprudence in parting with so real a blessing as my quiet, to run after a shadow." In short, his magnanimity was such, that he would rather have lost the credit of the most sublime discoveries ever made by man, than have risked that tranquillity of mind, which to a philosopher is certainly the highest charm of life.

He spent the prime of his days in those abstruse investigations which have immortalized his name, under the shade of academic bowers; but so little was he tainted with peculiarity of taste or manners, that no sooner was he removed to the Mint, than he devoted his chief attention to the duties of his station, and thenceforward regarded mathematics and philosophy as only secondary objects. Happily, however, for his country and mankind, he had nearly exhausted the subjects of his research by what he had previously performed; and he therefore turned to new avocations with less reluctance.


His unaffected modesty was one of the most remarkable features of his extraordinary character; and seldom indeed is eminent worth or genius found without a considerable share of this amiable quality. He put himself on a level with every company: no singularities, natural

or affected, distinguished him from other men ; and the sharp eye of censoriousness could never charge him with the vanity  assumed superiority.

Though attached to the church of England, he was averse to persecution of any kind. In his correct and enlightened opinion the real schismatics were the vicious and the profane. Yet this liberal mode of thinking did not arise from any predilection for natural religion : on the contrary, he was deeply and seriously impressed with the truth of Revelation ; and he studied the Bible longer, and with more intense application, than any other book.

Sir Isaac was economical and frugal from principle, but was guilty of no meanness in accumulating wealth ; and there are instances of his generosity, when fortune had put it in his power to be liberal. When circumstances required it, he indulged in expense with a good grace ; but he had no taste for that ostentatious sort of magnificence which little minds think a mark of importance. He wanted no external show to set off his solid merit ; and his character being really great, he had no affectation of appearing wiser or better than other men.

Sir Isaac Newton never entered into the marriage state, nor perhaps had he leisure to think of it. During the flower of his years, he was immersed in those abstracted speculations in which the passions have little share ; and he was afterwards engaged in an important employment, and sufficiently occupied with company, so that he appears scarcely to have felt the want of domestic endearments. Indeed, a person who would pursue his studies occasionally three hours after his dinner was on the table, or sit for as long a time half-drest on going to bed, or getting up in the morning, with his mind wholly absorbed in speculation, would have found matrimony an incumbrance. It has been said too, and perhaps with truth, that his exemption from the entanglements of love, and from a taste for wine, was the great secondary means of his successful attainments in knowledge.



ROBERT WALPOLE,

EARL OF ORFORD.

Born 1674. — Died 1745.*From 25th Charles II. to 18th George II.*

THERE must surely be some latent fascination in power, “to vulgar souls unknown;” else where is the man who would be ambitious to support the office of prime minister for the space of twenty years; harassed by its duties, absorbed in political intrigues, exposed to the malignity of opponents, and often traduced by his country, for perhaps really prudent and meritorious services? The subject of the present article made a conspicuous figure in the councils of two sovereigns, and long directed the machine of state; he appears, however, neither to deserve all the panegyric that has been lavished on him by his friends, nor all the obloquy aimed at him by his enemies.

The family of Walpole had flourished for ages in the county of Norfolk, and was of considerable note. Robert was born at Houghton, and educated on the foundation at Eton; whence he was elected to King’s College, Cambridge. There are no memorials of his juvenile days that deserve enumeration; and he appears to have been as much indebted to his good fortune as to his extraordinary talents, for the distinctions which he acquired.

In the twenty-sixth year of his age he was elected to parliament for King’s Lynn in Norfolk, and represented that borough for a number of years. He had not been long a member of the house of commons, before his popular and plausible eloquence attracted notice; for in 1705 he was appointed one of the council to his royal highness George prince of Denmark, (husband to queen Anne,) lord high admiral of England; and was after-

wards made successively secretary at war, and treasurer of the navy.

When Dr. Sacheverel was impeached for preaching the arbitrary doctrines of passive obedience and non-resistance, Walpole was chosen one of the managers to make good the articles against him; and among the rest, he received the thanks of the house for his services.

A change of administration taking place in the year 1710, he was removed from all his posts; and next year, on account of his attachment to the great duke of Marlborough, and his opposition to the tory ministry, he was charged with corrupt practices while secretary of war, voted guilty of a high breach of trust, expelled the house, and committed to the Tower. The object of his enemies, however, in passing this sentence on him, was probably more to disgrace him in the eyes of the nation, than for the sake of public justice. The whig party considered him as a martyr in their cause; and the borough of Lynn re-elected him, and persisted in its choice. The more he was depressed, the more popular he became, and he exerted his eloquence on some important occasions in such a manner, as to fix firmly the affections of the people.

On the death of queen Anne, the whigs triumphed; and the known zeal of Walpole in favour of the Hanoverian succession, added to his abilities as a speaker, pointed him out to the regard of George the First, immediately on that monarch's accession. Accordingly he was made paymaster of the army, and sworn a privy-counsellor.

When a new parliament was convened, the conduct of the last ministry was one of the first objects of animadversion. A committee of secrecy was chosen, of which Walpole was constituted chairman; and under his management, articles of impeachment were voted by the commons against the duke of Ormond, and lords Oxford, Bolingbroke, and Strafford, who had been the chief promoters of a peace, which the nation considered as very inadequate to the brilliant successes of the war. Walpole's services in this affair (which seemed, however, to

partake strongly of party spleen) were so generally acceptable, that he soon rose to be first lord of the treasury and chancellor of the exchequer.

Though the makers of the peace had been removed from their stations, and Bolingbroke (who was reputed the most eminent of them in talents) had fled to avoid the storm, unanimity did not long prevail in the new councils. The influence of secretary Stanhope and his adherents appeared to prevail over that of Walpole; and the weight of the latter was gradually decreasing in the administration. He felt the slippery ground on which he stood, and began to look about him with the crafty vigilance of a courtier.

In April, 1717, Mr. secretary Stanhope delivered a royal message to the house of commons, demanding an extraordinary supply; the object of which was obviously to secure some new purchases in Germany from the attacks of Charles the Twelfth of Sweden, out of whose hands they had originally been wrested. The secretary having moved that this supply should be granted, a long and animated debate took place, in which Walpole was observed to keep a profound silence. He knew that the independent or country members considered this proceeding as contrary to the act of settlement; and by silently joining with the strongest side, he hoped to gain the ascendancy over his rivals in office, without actually offending his majesty. This temporising policy, however, he was not permitted to observe. In the course of the debate, some of the members who were hostile to the supply, noticed the apparent division among his majesty's ministers. Walpole, feeling himself thus called upon, spoke in favour of the motion; which at last was carried by a majority of only four votes.

He must have now foreseen, that with so slender a majority no British ministry could stand its ground. He therefore took the wisest alternative, and resigned, that he might retain some credit with the popular party; but merely, as it afterwards appeared, with the view of being

restored with greater power. Factionous movements like these are not unfrequent; yet in every age how many dupes are there to such deceptions!

On the very day of his resignation, Walpole brought in the famous sinking-fund bill; which has since been so often perverted to purposes different from its original destination, that it is still doubtful whether its beneficial consequences have not been more specious than real.

In the debates on this bill, the contest became so warm between Walpole and Stanhope, that, on some severe expressions from the latter, the former lost his usual happy command of temper, and retorted with great warmth. The acrimony on both sides betrayed circumstances, which it would have been for the credit of each to conceal.

In the next session of parliament, Walpole affected to be a flaming patriot, and was the determined opposer of administration in every thing. He could see no merit in any measure that tended against his own ambition for place; and as the ministry had stood longer than he imagined they would, he now exerted all his powers of eloquence to render himself formidable, or to effect their fall.

An offer of a place, however, being held out to his view, he softened his tone, and began to discover his real character. He was again appointed paymaster of the forces, and several of his friends were likewise promoted. His conversion was now sincere; and henceforward he pleaded as strongly in defence of ministerial measures, as he had formerly opposed them. His new zeal facilitated his accession to the summit of power. He was again appointed first lord of the treasury and chancellor of the exchequer; and when the king visited the continent in 1723, he was nominated one of the lords justices, and sworn sole secretary of state. About this time too he received another mark of royal favour, in the elevation of his son to a peerage; while he himself was made knight of the bath, and soon after of the garter.

Such an accumulation of honour and emolument upon

one family, with a rapidity almost unexampled, naturally excited envy or dissatisfaction ; and as the measures of sir Robert's administration were often unprecedented and bold, the press teemed with violent invectives against him. But the equanimity of his mind preserved him from feeling the force of these attacks ; and the well-disciplined parliamentary phalanx by which he was supported, maintained him, in spite of all opposition, through a period almost unexampled in our annals.

To enter into the principles of his conduct, and to appreciate his merits and defects, for the space of twenty years, cannot be expected in this place. To impartial history alone it belongs to discern truth through the exaggerations of political friendship, and of political enmity.

Sir Robert Walpole has been styled the father of corruption. That he was the first minister who exercised undue influence, cannot be allowed ; but he seems to deserve the censure and obloquy of posterity for rearing and reducing it into a system.

After long directing the government, sir Robert Walpole was at last driven from power, by intrigues not more deep, but more powerful, than his own. In 1742, finding that he was no longer able to carry a majority in the house of commons, he resigned all his places. After much difficulty and opposition, the commons resolved that a committee should be appointed to enquire into the conduct of the late minister : but the investigation to which this was intended to lead, was rejected by the house of lords ; and the two houses being at variance on this account, his majesty, in order to screen his old servant, was obliged to prorogue the parliament.

Meanwhile he was created earl of Orford, and received a pension of four thousand pounds a year, in consideration of his long and faithful services. The people however continued loud in their cry for vengeance ; and an ineffectual attempt was made, next session of parliament, to revive the proceedings against him. At last the fer-

ment subsided; and Orford retired to domestic privacy and peace; which, from the serenity of his natural temper, he seemed eminently qualified to enjoy. — Whatever objections have been alleged against his ministerial conduct, his private character was universally allowed to be replete with amiable and benevolent qualities. He was a fond indulgent parent, a kind master, a beneficent patron, a firm friend, and an agreeable companion. It was impossible not to love him as a man, however his conduct as a minister might be censured; and perhaps he was not more culpable in his public character, than many other great men who have since steered the vessel of state.

The following compliment which Pope pays this celebrated statesman, in reply to one of his friends who bids him “go and see sir Robert,” will be more durable than monumental brass, and shows his estimable private worth :

Seen him I have ; but in his happier hour
Of social pleasure, ill exchang'd for pow'r :
Seen him, uncumber'd with the venal tribe,
Smile without art, and win without a bribe.

Lord Orford did not long survive his resignation. Mankind in general look forward to the calm of declining life with complacency and satisfaction : but the ambitious mind, used to the tumult of business or intrigue, is seldom happy in the shade. We are the creatures of habit, and pine for the gratifications which we have lost ; and at the close of our days find it too late to form new connections, and to adopt new pursuits. When life is once brought into method, and established on principle, every deviation gives us pain ; and every change, however much it may flatter in prospect, is sure to disappoint us in possession. Happy is he who can early sit down content, nor ever heaves a sigh for change !

JOHN DALRYMPLE, EARL OF STAIR.

Born 1678. — Died 1747

From 24th Charles II. to 20th George I.

SOME men dazzle for a time by a specious lustre ; but suddenly glide, like an unsubstantial meteor, from our sight. Others, with qualities fitted to adorn the highest stations, being cramped in their energies and confined to a narrow sphere, cast, like the glow-worm, a feeble light, which is noticed only by near observers. It was however the happier fortune of lord Stair, to possess those talents and virtues which are honourable and useful to mankind, and to be called to the discharge of duties which made these appear to the best advantage. Born to high rank, and invested with great commands, he reflected more honour on place and title than he received from them ; and not only was the idol of his own times, but will be a theme of applause to all posterity. As a hero, a politician, and a man, he exhibited an example of all that is great and good ; so that he may safely be held up as a model of imitation to future ages, as well as the ornament of his own.

This accomplished nobleman was the eldest son of the first earl of Stair. Even when an infant he displayed his ruling passion, the love of military glory. He mustered a regiment of boys of his own age, which he called by his name ; and in a short time rendered them so perfect in such evolutions as suited his youthful fancy, that his future heroism and success might even then have been foreseen by a penetrating eye. Being warmed with the enthusiasm of virtue, and possessing a magnanimity beyond his years, he showed his aversion to whatever was dastardly or mean in his associates ; and encouraged in them whatever was manly and becoming.

By the age of ten he had made astonishing progress in the learned languages, under a private tutor; the French of course became an easy acquisition. At fourteen, he had run through the usual course of academic studies at the university of Edinburgh; and was equally distinguished for his natural and acquired accomplishments.

But though his attachment to a military life had displayed itself so early, his father at first intended him for the law. The earl of Stair, however, at once yielded to the importunity of his son. He sent him, while still a boy, into Holland, where he initiated himself in the study of arms, under that excellent commander, William prince of Orange; who testified for the young hero both the respect due to his promising talents; and the affectionate tenderness of a father.

Here he made a rapid progress in fortification and gunnery; and in various modern languages, which he afterwards spoke with purity and fluency. Here too he imbibed that spirit of liberty and independence, which he afterwards displayed in all his conduct.

About the era of our glorious Revolution he returned to his native country; and, through his eloquence and his address, drew over numbers to the cause of William, by his pathetic representation of what the Protestants suffered on the continent, and the dangerous ambition of the house of Bourbon. All were charmed with his manners and his sentiments; and almost all who heard or saw him became converts to his principles.

William was not unmindful of his youthful zeal. He took him in his service to Ireland, where the young nobleman displayed the greatest personal resolution; and in the beginning of the year 1691, he accompanied his royal master to Holland.

The reception which Dalrymple found here was flattering in the extreme. He was caressed by all ranks, and soon after received a colonel's commission; nor was it long before he had an opportunity of particularly distinguishing himself in the glorious but unsuccessful battle

of Steenkirk, fought in 1692. All the officers behaved well, but Dalrymple performed prodigies of valour. He rallied his regiment after the ranks had been broken by the enemy's artillery, and stopped the pursuit, till the rest of the brigade had time to form.

From this time nothing remarkable occurs in his life till 1702; when he appeared again at the head of his regiment in Flanders, under the victorious duke of Marlborough. He served in most of his grace's campaigns; and by his military genius, his unshaken fortitude, and amiable manners, won the regard and esteem of that great commander. It is impossible to do justice to the achievements of Dalrymple, in a long series of the most brilliant actions and successes, crowded into so narrow a space of time. Scarcely any memorable affair took place in which he did not participate, and bear away his full share of glory.

When the duke of Marlborough returned home in 1709, he introduced colonel Dalrymple to queen Anne, with the most liberal encomiums on his services: and his father dying soon after, her majesty, as a reward for his military services, and a trial of his political talents, sent the young earl of Stair ambassador-extraordinary to Augustus the Second, king of Poland; who, charmed at least, if not influenced by his lordship's amiable qualities, entered into all the measures of the allies, which the ambassador was commissioned to recommend and enforce.

After residing four years at the Polish court, with honour to himself and advantage to his country, he was recalled; and the political friends, with whom he was connected by every tie of gratitude and esteem, being displaced, he was involved in their fate. On this occasion, his integrity was proved beyond a doubt: so little had he regarded his private interest that he had contracted a considerable debt; and his plate and equipage would have been seized, had it not been for the generous interference of his countryman lieutenant Lawson, who

offered him a sum of money to redeem them. The gratitude of the earl of Stair to this gentleman ever after, was as honourable as the friendship which he had experienced.

He now retired to a country life, but was not long doomed to inglorious inactivity. On the accession of George the First, he was appointed one of the lords of the bedchamber, sworn of the privy-council, and soon after made commander-in-chief of the forces in North Britain. His influence in his native country was so great, that he rendered the highest service to the ministry in the returns to the new parliament that met in 1715, and was himself elected one of the sixteen peers of Scotland. At this crisis, an ambassador of genius, fortitude, penetration, and address, was peculiarly wanted at the court of Versailles; and the earl of Stair was pitched on, as possessing all these qualities in an eminent degree. The high expectations entertained of him were amply gratified. Though he had to counteract the policy of the most intriguing court on earth, he developed its latent designs with so much sagacity, and contended for the interest of his country with so little fear, that he was no less respected than dreaded by the French government. He penetrated into the deepest counsels of Louis and the Pretender; and frustrated their designs, in general, before they were ripe for execution. On the death of the king of France, he intimidated the regent to such a degree, by a spirited memorial, that the latter reluctantly withdrew the promised assistance to the Pretender; and thus the efforts to excite a rebellion in Scotland came to nothing.

As a negociator the earl of Stair attracted a deserved notice, and shone unrivalled in his time. His disinterested character gave force to his remonstrances; and his high spirit would not brook equivocation or delay. He supported the honour and dignity of his country with a boldness that, in ordinary men, would have been deemed insolence or rashness. When the duke of Orleans, regent of *France*, came in great state to visit him; and had set one

on the ground, but kept the other fixed on the step of the coach; lord Stair, who advanced, observing this posture, stopped; and asked the attendants on his highness, "whether their master came to visit him as his Britannic majesty's ambassador, or as earl of Stair?" receiving no answer, he added, "If he comes to see me lord Stair, I shall reckon it my greatest honour to receive any officer of the crown, much more the duke regent, at the door of his coach; but if he comes to visit me as ambassador of my august and royal master, I should deem myself unworthy of the trust reposed in me, if I went any further than I have done." This being reported to the regent, his highness drove away; and caused it to be notified to his lordship, that his appearance at court should be dispensed with. This coolness continued for some months: but the earl, hearing of some naval equipments which he could not look at with indifference, forced his way to an audience; when he argued with so much ability, and showed such an intimate acquaintance with the most secret designs of the different courts on the continent, that the regent was forced to acknowledge some very deep and extensive machinations against the tranquillity of Britain.

In short, his abilities had such an ascendancy over the regent before he left France, that his highness, being once privately asked what part he would take in the troubles of the north, answered, "Just what the British ambassador wishes." Nor was he less acceptable to the people in general; he was benevolent and charitable, and endeared himself to the lower rank by his splendour and hospitality.

Indeed the honour of his country had ever been the ruling motive of the earl of Stair. He had involved himself considerably in debt, in supporting his high character at the French court; and being unwilling to contract the splendour of his magnificence, he solicited and obtained his rank. The king, however, was so well pleased with the conduct of his ambassador, that he declared he would have created him a duke, had not the law of the Union

opposed it ; and evinced such a sense of his fidelity, that no praise could go beyond it. The people, on the other hand, echoed back the praises of their sovereign : and every voice resounded with applause. The favour of George the First remained unabated to the last ; and on the accession of George the Second he was received into the same confidence. In addition to the other honourable posts which he held, he was made lord-admiral of Scotland in 1730 : but no allurements could divert him from what he considered as his duty to his country ; and when the plan of an excise was first brought into parliament by sir Robert Walpole, he was one of those who opposed it on the purest principles, and soon after resigned all his places. Yet he showed no hostility against the minister, and on every occasion behaved with a moderation suitable to the dignity of his character.

Being disencumbered of office, his lordship now betook himself to the practice of agriculture ; and by the improvements which he introduced in that art, was no less beneficial to his country than when in his proudest exaltation. He was still visited and caressed by all who were estimable in worth, celebrated for talents, or dignified by rank. In urbanity, and colloquial fascination, he had no equal ; and the excellent qualities of his heart equalled his brightest acquired accomplishments.

While employed in rural pursuits, a change of ministry took place ; a war was on the point of breaking out, and his lordship was again invited into the service of his country. With the approbation of every good subject, and of every true Briton, he was, in 1742, made field-marshal of his majesty's forces, and ambassador-extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the States-general. The king now, emancipated from the counsels of Walpole, received him with a degree of tenderness and affection, which convinced every spectator how much his majesty esteemed him ; and soon afterwards sent him to Holland ; where his eloquence and arguments had so much weight, that the

States were not tardy in adopting the views of the British court.

To enumerate every praise-worthy action of this great general and politician, would swell this article to an improper length. At the successful battle of Dettingen, where he was commander-in-chief, he showed the same unshaken courage, spirit, and intrepidity, as had adorned his youthful years; but finding active service too laborious at this season of life, he petitioned soon after to resign, and resumed his rural occupations with fresh delight.

However, on the breaking out of the rebellion in 1745, he repaired to court, and made an offer of his services; which were gladly accepted. He accompanied the duke of Cumberland to Edinburgh, and assisted his operations. This was the last public service which he was able to perform. His health gradually gave way; or rather age asserted its sovereign sway over his constitution, and in May, 1747, he breathed his last.

The noble youth whose bosom beats high for Glory, and who views her temple within his reach, will contemplate the character of field-marshal the earl of Stair with emulation and delight; while those whose prospects are more limited, may copy this illustrious pattern in all the virtues of his heart, with pleasure and advantage. Equally fitted for camps or courts, he shone in both with distinguished lustre. His honour was unimpeached, and his veracity would by no subterfuge admit any degree of deception. He was great without pride, just without rigour, and bountiful without ostentation. His soul melted at distress; and his hand was ever open to relieve merit, or his favour ready to raise and cherish it. In a word, he possessed accomplishments and virtues which benefited his king, exalted his country, and dignified human nature.

In person he was above the ordinary stature, but graceful and handsome in an uncommon degree. His deportment inspired respect; and on his countenance was imprinted the soft smile of benignity, the emanation of a

humane and virtuous heart. Indeed, all his personal graces were but so many indications of the superior beauties of his mind; and the love and admiration which he attracted were paid less as compliments to his exalted rank and station, than as a just tribute to his genuine worth.

SIR HANS SLOANE.

Born 1660. — Died 1752.

From 11th Charles II. to 25th George II.

THOSE who smooth the road to sciences or literature, and facilitate the acquisition to others, are often more permanently useful than such as are supereminently learned themselves. The greatest personal or mental acquirements die with the possessors; but those who labour that others may be wise, benefit all posterity. The founders of schools, of colleges, of lectures, and of libraries, are therefore entitled to no mean praise; and their fame deserves to live in the genius which they have excited, the patronage which they have bestowed, and the facilities which they have afforded to learning and to knowledge.

As an author, Sloane was distinguished for one work only, the *Natural History of Jamaica*; as a naturalist and physician, he had equals, if not superiors; but, as the founder of that excellent institution, the *BRITISH MUSEUM*, he claims a place in the temple of British worthies.

Hans Sloane was a native of Killaleagh, in the north of Ireland; but of Scotch extraction. His first dawnings of intellect discovered a strong propensity to researches into the mysteries of nature, and the curiosities of art; and his parents, with a judgment which merits praise, encouraged his taste by a suitable education. Natural History was his delight; and by an easy transition, he adopted the medical art as a profession. To perfect himself in this he

repaired to London, the general repository of knowledge ; where he attended the public lectures in every branch of science connected with his favourite pursuits.

Though so young, and without the recommendation of great alliances, he had the happiness to attract the notice of the amiable Boyle and the inquisitive Ray : the former, one of the greatest experimental philosophers that ever lived ; the latter, the best naturalist and botanist of his age. Under the auspices of these gentlemen, Sloane improved his natural abilities, and cultivated his particular taste to a high degree. A similarity of pursuits made them friends, and the young student was not ungrateful for the patronage which he received.

Having spent four years in London with unremitting attention to his favourite studies, he was advised to travel for further improvement. The university of Paris, at that time, was distinguished for its eminent professors in every branch of the healing art ; and there Sloane determined to become a pupil. Meanwhile he frequented the hospitals, contracted an acquaintance with the most distinguished physicians, and every where experienced that reception which is due to science and to talents.

As a candidate for solid reputation, in the first ranks of his profession, he omitted no opportunity of acquiring knowledge ; he thought no pains too great that opened a new field of improvement. From Paris he went, with warm and ample recommendations, to the most illustrious physicians and naturalists at Montpellier, — a situation peculiarly favourable for botanical researches ; and here he spent a whole year in the captivating investigation of nature's spontaneous productions.

About the close of 1684, Sloane returned to London ; where he resolved to settle and practise as a physician. His fame had preceded him ; and the immortal Sydenham, a man too great to be tainted with the meanness of professional jealousy, took him under not only his patronage but his roof, and introduced him with the warmest zeal to his friends. Thus in superior minds we find a generosity

of sentiment which disdains all selfish considerations; while grovelling souls are absorbed in private views, and hate that excellence which they cannot reach. The compliment paid by Sydenham to the young physician was, no doubt, justly due to his skill and accomplishments; but how few are so fortunate as to have their worth allowed, much less blazoned to the world, by professional rivals for honour and emolument!

Having transmitted to his friend Ray a great variety of seeds and plants from France, by the influence of that sedulous enquirer into nature, he was proposed a member of the Royal Society, and received with very flattering tokens of respect. The following year he was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; and his reputation was now so firmly established, that he might have realised any expectation which he could reasonably form.

His ruling passion, however, overcame the love of ease, and the accumulation of riches. The duke of Albemarle, who had just been appointed governor of Jamaica, made proposals to Sloane to accompany his grace as his physician. This opened a new field to his inquisitive mind: Nature had not yet been unveiled in the West Indies; and he panted to be the handmaid of her charms, and to rifle her sweets without a rival. No representations of his friends could prevail on him to relinquish his design of accepting this offer; and during a residence of fifteen months in Jamaica, his industry in collecting plants was so indefatigable, that he accumulated more than the best botanists of the time imagined to be indigenous in that climate, or indeed in both the Indies.

His curiosity being now fully gratified, and his reputation crowned with new accessions, he returned to London, and resumed his practice; which was soon as extensive as his abilities were great. Being chosen physician of Christ's Hospital, he gave an illustrious proof of his philanthropy and disinterestedness, by applying the whole amount of his salary to the relief of the most indigent and miserable among the patients of the house. For restoring

health to the poor, he thought it mean to reap emolument. Of this beneficent and noble disposition we find many instances in the medical profession, but few occur in any other.

Being elected secretary of the Royal Society in 1693, he had the honour of reviving the publication of the Philosophical Transactions, which had for some time been discontinued: and greatly enriched the volumes, for many years, with his own original contributions. But an attention to this department of literature, did not alone occupy his pursuits. For some years he had employed his vacant hours in collecting whatever was rare and curious in nature or art; and his cabinet was so well filled, that it soon merited the inspection of the learned. Among others who visited this repository, and respected its ingenious author, was Mr. Couston; a gentleman of fortune; who had spent his time and a liberal share of his income, in the same objects. A congeniality of mind and taste attached him to Dr. Sloane. Anxious that his own collection and his name should be perpetuated, he thought he could not better provide for both, than by adding his museum to that of Sloane; and accordingly he bequeathed him the whole.

The Sloanean cabinet thus became one of the first in Europe; and the learning, skill, industry, and public spirit of the proprietor, seemed to claim some distinguished honour. Foreigners had duly estimated Dr. Sloane's high merit as a professional man and a naturalist, and his sovereign was ready to reward it. About the year 1720, George the First, to whom he had been first physician for some time, raised him to the dignity of a baronet. He was likewise appointed president of the College of Physicians; and filled the president's chair in the Royal Society, as successor of the immortal Newton. These honours at home were allowed by other nations to be well earned; sir Hans Sloane was elected a member of the Royal Academy of Paris, and his correspondence was courted by almost every learned society in Europe.

From this period, doctors Sloane and Mead were the only physicians of distinguished reputation in the metropolis; and such was the extent of their practice, that they are said to have cleared each about six thousand pounds a-year. The one (as was mentioned before) was introduced by Sydenham, and the other by Radcliffe; who, during their own time, had also divided the medical honours in the capital.

Borne down with the weight of years, and loaded with honours and opulence, sir Hans Sloane in 1749 retired to Chelsea, to enjoy in peaceful tranquillity the few moments of life that were yet to come. He did not, however, court solitude; but only an exemption from the toils of business. He was daily visited by persons of high rank, and distinguished literary attainments, whether natives or foreigners. A day was set apart weekly for a gratuitous exhibition of his museum; and another was devoted to the relief of the sick poor, to whom sir Hans was a liberal benefactor, during a long and well-spent life.

From the age of sixteen, this valuable man had been subject to pulmonary complaints; but by temperance and medicine he overcame this radical infirmity, and reached an uncommon degree of longevity. In January, 1752, he expired without a groan, in the ninety-first year of his age; possessed of all his faculties to the last, and crowned with honour.

In person sir Hans was full and well proportioned, in manners polished and captivating, and in conversation sprightly and facetious. As a physician he was remarkably successful; and deserves great credit for being the first who introduced the free use of that valuable specific the Jesuit's bark; tried by him, and found efficacious in a variety of complaints, to which before his time it had never been administered.

But the best part of his character was his genuine charity and philanthropy. As his abilities to do good increased, so did his disposition. He was a governor of *almost* every hospital in London; and besides his legacies,

was a generous patron to them during life. He first laid the plan of a dispensary, where the poor might be supplied with medicines at prime cost; he presented the company of apothecaries with their botanical garden at Chelsea, in the centre of which stands his statue; and he promoted the establishment of the Foundling-hospital, and communicated the best instructions for the nutrition of the children.

These are some of his good deeds; which will speak his praise, when the marble monument shall moulder into dust, and the statue no longer bear the similitude of a man. Nor was this all. His library and cabinet which he had been at so much pains to form and collect, he bequeathed to the public, on condition that the sum of twenty thousand pounds should be paid to his family. Large as this sum may appear, it was not half the value of the legacy; and scarcely more than the intrinsic worth of the precious metals, stones, and ores, which the museum contained. This noble collection of curiosities, added to his library of fifty thousand volumes, laid the foundation of the British Museum; and parliament, with a liberality which reflects the highest honour on the nation, by subsequent purchases, which are still continued, as well as by gifts and bequests from individuals, has been enabled to complete the establishment of an institution, whose utility will remain to latest times, and form one of the proudest monuments to British taste, science, and opulence. It is freely open to the public, subject to some easy regulations; and the number of visitants, as well for curiosity as for study, increase with its general attractions, and still accumulating classical stores.

MAJOR-GENERAL JAMES WOLFE.

Born 1726. — Killed 1759.

From 12th George I. to 32d George II.

THE energy of a sovereign, or the virtue of a minister, is easily communicated to a whole nation. Like the electric shock, it is felt to the extremity of the circle. Each person in contact starts from the torpor of inactivity, and is inspired with resolution to emulate the qualities which he sees honoured and admired. When talents and virtues are sure of promotion, competitors for the prize will never be wanting. Encouragement kindles the flame of genius, and the ardour of military enterprise. The immortal and revered William Pitt, the first earl of Chatham, whose eloquence flashed indignation on the corrupt and degenerate, and whose plaudits were ever paid to worth; whose capacious mind embraced every object, and whose spirit proved the shield of his country and the terror of her foes; by his vigorous measures called a race of heroes into being, and fostered them with paternal care. He sought for merit wherever it was to be found; he discovered it sometimes under the cloud of neglect, and sometimes in the shade of obscurity. He brought it into action, for the honour and service of the public, and reaped a harvest of glory from its success. Among others whom this penetrating and sagacious statesman armed with the thunders of Britain, was the illustrious subject of the present article. It is to be deeply lamented, that the span of life allowed him was too short to furnish more numerous incidents; but all its parts are replete with glory.

James Wolfe was the son of a military officer of rank, who had gathered laurels under the duke of Marlborough. He was born at Westerham, in Kent; but not-

withstanding the brilliant part which he played on the theatre of life, not a single circumstance is preserved that can afford the least insight into the habits of his early years. It would have been a pleasure to trace the future hero in the pastimes of the boy, and to mark the dawnings of superior intellect, in the rude essays of untutored fancy.

That Wolfe received a military education, and was destined for the profession of arms almost from his infancy, can admit of no dispute. Honourable mention is made of his conduct and bravery at the battle of La Feldt, which was fought when he was only in the twentieth year of his age. His royal highness the duke of Cumberland saw his promising talents, and rewarded them by promotion; but the gradations of his rise are not ascertained. It is only known; that during the whole war, he without interruption advanced his military character, and carried off laurels from every contest.

Even when he might have reposed in the lap of peace, he disdained ignoble ease, and cultivated the arts of war. He had the honour of introducing, by his example and perseverance, rather than by the exercise of severity, such a perfect discipline into his own regiment, that as long as the plains of Minden are remembered, so long will *Kingsley's* (as the regiment was called) be mentioned with applause. He continued lieutenant-colonel of that body, till new hostilities broke out. He was endeared to his men no less by his affectionate concern for their welfare, than by his personal courage, which had never received the slightest imputation of dishonour. They obeyed his commands from a higher principle than duty; and little does that officer consult his glory or his interest, who trusts to the influence of authority alone. Men may be ruled by force, but the mind can only be gained by respect and love.

In the year 1756, war was formally declared against France. Its commencement was an uninterrupted series of disgraces and disappointments, till Mr. Pitt was called

to the helm of state. He immediately began his virtuous career by bringing forward men of the most enterprising and active genius; and the tide of success was soon turned by their talents. Wolfe, whose youthful exploits had not been forgotten, and could not be overlooked by a statesman like Pitt, was raised to the rank of brigadier-general, and put under the command of general Amherst. They were sent against Louisbourg, and Wolfe was employed to cover the landing of the troops; which he effected, amidst a storm of fire from the enemy's batteries, and an impetuous surf which dashed some of the boats to pieces. Calm and collected, he displayed an energy equal to the occasion; and the conquest of the place was in a great measure ascribed to his judgment and his fortitude.

Scarcely had he returned from this expedition, when the honourable share which he had borne in it pointed him out as worthy of a higher command. He was raised to the rank of major-general, and sent to reduce Quebec. The generals who served under him were all young men, whom a less sagacious minister than Pitt would have hesitated to trust; but he wisely measured abilities by another standard than years. Age may inspire prudence, but it is apt to cool enthusiasm; and the veteran general is more solicitous to prevent disgrace, than to hazard enterprise. Wolfe and his associates, on the other hand, saw glory before them, and overcame almost insurmountable impediments to pay her their homage.

Here the abilities and courage of Wolfe shone forth in the fullest lustre. Undaunted by difficulties which would have cooled the ardour of an ordinary man, disregarding the strength of situation and superiority of numbers, and even refusing nature the respite which she solicited (as he was suffering under a fever and a flux), he persevered with unwearied judgment and attention to open the way to victory. His military council desponded at the contemplation of their prospects, and the general himself *would have been justified in yielding to the pressure of*

unfortunate circumstances; but he, singly and alone in opinion, projected the plan which was to annihilate the French power in America. He did more; he executed it with a success, on which the most sanguine could scarcely have presumed. Having gained the heights of Abraham, on which side the city of Quebec was most exposed, he hastened to give battle to the enemy; who advanced to the charge with much superior numbers, and in good order. The gallant Wolfe stationed himself in the front of the line, in the hottest point of action. He was early wounded in the wrist, but neither pain nor danger could prevail on him to desert the post of glory; he wrapped a handkerchief round the wound, and continued to give his orders without emotion. Advancing at the head of his grenadiers, with bayonets fixed, a ball pierced him through the breast; and he fell at the moment when the enemy began to give way, and the British arms became triumphant. He was instantly carried to a small distance in the rear; and the tide of life was ebbing fast, when he was roused in the agonies of death by the cry, "They run! they run!" Catching the sound, he eagerly asked, "Who run?" He had the satisfaction to hear it was the French. In a faltering voice he exclaimed, "Then I thank God, I die content:" and with these words expired.

Such was the lamented end of general Wolfe, one of the most enterprising and accomplished officers which this nation ever produced. He lived to be the conqueror of Canada, for the event of that day sealed its fate; but he died too early for his country; and the joy of conquest was embittered by a reflection on the dearness of its purchase. A mixture of every passion that can agitate the generous heart, attended this national triumph. Mr. Pitt, in the house of commons, pronounced the eulogy of the deceased in such strains of affecting eloquence, as drew tears from every eye. The minister was absorbed in the better feelings of the man; and he wept at the immortality which he had given.

When the body of general Wolfe was brought to Portsmouth, the scene was impressively solemn. Minute guns were fired from the men-of-war at Spithead, from the time the corpse was taken from the ship, to its slow landing at the Point. Bodies of military marched down to receive it. It was put into a hearse, and proceeded in funeral pomp through the garrison under arms. During this awful procession, the colours on the fort were half-lowered, the bells were muffled, and tolled in solemn concert with the dead march; minute guns were fired from the platform; and troops, with arms reversed, preceded and followed the hearse. The body was afterwards privately deposited in the family vault at Greenwich church; and a superb national monument was erected to his memory in Westminster-abbey, at the expense of four thousand guineas. These were some of the unavailing honours paid to the conqueror of Canada, which remains a faithful appendage to Great Britain. His name still continues to inspire martial enthusiasm in the youthful bosom, and to allure the aspiring to the field of glory. But while his public character serves to excite emulation, his private also is entitled to warm esteem.

He seems to have been formed by nature for military greatness. Not only was his constitutional bravery uniform and daring; but he possessed that higher species of courage, — that strength, steadiness, and activity of mind, — which no difficulties could vanquish, no dangers deter from the pursuit of his own and his country's glory.

Though subject to a vivacity of disposition almost bordering on impetuosity, he was betrayed into no unguarded sallies of passion: and with a generous independence of mind, he was free from pride. His bounty almost bordered on profusion, and he despised the arts of gain. It was his highest gratification to assist the deserving soldier; and even the inferior officer in distress has frequently experienced his liberality. In his attachments he was constant and discriminating; and gentle, kind, and conciliating in his manners.

It was the peculiar good fortune of general Wolfe, not only to enjoy a large share of the friendship, but almost the universal good-will, of mankind. He was one of those who appear to have vanquished envy by the indisputable superiority of professional talents, and acknowledged excellence of heart. This is the most exalted compliment that can be paid to man; for that character must be sublime indeed which envy and malice will not venture to attack.

GEORGE, LORD ANSON.

Born 1697. — Died 1762.

From 8th William III. to 2d George III.

A FATALITY attends the best concerted plans of some able men; while a mediocrity of talents, without energy, and almost without effort, not unfrequently carries away the prize. The prudent must often encounter combined difficulties which no foresight can avoid; while the rash and unreflecting, escape the dangers which they seem to provoke. But patient fortitude, united to skill and enterprise, will generally prevail at last; and fortune, weary of buffeting the brave, will leave them near the haven of their wishes.

Whoever has read the history of Anson's voyage round the world, will be able to apply some of these reflections to the particular case of this eminent officer; who, amidst the most forlorn prospects, did not despond; and whose perseverance and courage were ultimately crowned with proportionate reward.

George Anson was the younger son of a very respectable family in Staffordshire, and was born at Shuckborough in that county. His inclination led him to the naval profession, and his father gave him an education

suitable to his views. It was his greatest delight to read the narratives of voyagers, and the illustrious actions of admirals, from his earliest years; and thus his genius could not be misconceived, and fortunately it was not opposed.

Of his exploits while in the lower rank of naval service, nothing is now known. Where he was stationed, or under whom he served, has not been recorded. That he went through the subordinate stations in the royal navy with credit, and had rendered himself by his diligence perfectly master of his profession, may be inferred from the following circumstance: that in the twenty-fifth year of his age, he was promoted to the command of the *Weasel* sloop; and soon after obtained the *Scarborough* man-of-war, in which ship he displayed great intrepidity and judgment. A long interval of silence, as to his subsequent destinies, succeeds; for a military officer has the best chance of being noticed only when engaged in his proper element, a war.

About the close of the year 1731, a rupture with Spain appearing inevitable, government rightly considered that the most effectual step to distress the enemy was to attack them in their American settlements; and thus cut off their supplies of money, the principal sinew of war.

This plan, so politic, and apparently so practicable, suffered various unaccountable delays before it was carried into execution; and at last was attempted on a contracted scale, and with a very inadequate force. Mr. Anson, who was then captain of the *Centurion*, was appointed commodore of a squadron of five ships, destined for the South Seas. The spirit and the diligence of the commander deserved more prompt and efficacious measures, on the part of government, for the equipment of his fleet: but ten months elapsed from his appointment before he was ready to put to sea; and at last he had the mortification to find, that the small land force with which he was entrusted was fitter for an hospital or a garrison, than to be employed in a distant and dangerous expedition, where

the vigour of health, added to the experience of arms, was essentially requisite. Nor was this the only disadvantage which attended his outset. By the most criminal delays, the enemy were fully apprized of the nature and object of this expedition ; and the season of the year was the most unpropitious for a navigation so little known, and so replete with dangers.

The commodore, however, though he might be vexed, was not dispirited. He sailed on the 18th of September, 1740, in his flag-ship the *Centurion* of sixty guns, with the *Severn* and *Gloucester* of fifty guns each, the *Pearl* of forty guns, the *Wager* store-ship, and the *Tryal* sloop; and arrived in the latitude of Cape Horn about the vernal equinox, when the weather in that climate is dreadfully tempestuous. His career was now obstructed by accumulating difficulties, but his resolution was undaunted. With extreme hazard he doubled that stormy cape, in company with the *Gloucester* and the sloop. The *Severn* and *Pearl*, after various attempts, were under the necessity of putting back, and the *Wager* was lost. The scurvy also began to make excessive ravages among the ships that were left ; but having refreshed his men and repaired his damages at the fertile though desolate island of Juan Fernandez, with this inconsiderable force he kept the whole coast of Mexico and Peru in continual alarm for eight months, made some considerable prizes, and with great conduct and resolution took possession of the town of Païta, which however he afterwards sacked and burned. The humane conduct of Anson to his prisoners, made an indelible impression on the minds of the Spaniards ; and he became at once the object of their terror and respect.

At length, having lost all his other ships, with the *Centurion* alone he traversed the immense Pacific Ocean : and in the course of this long navigation his crew was so much further reduced, that with the utmost difficulty he reached the isle of Tinian ; which had been deserted by the Spaniards a little before, and is described in the his-

tory of this voyage as a terrestrial elysium. Amidst the happy sequestered groves of this delightful spot, he refreshed his crew, and fitted them for fresh enterprises.— But an accident happened here, which nearly put an end to his interesting voyage. The anchorage being but indifferent on the coast, and a furious storm arising, the *Centurion* was driven out to sea with only a few hands on board, and it was nineteen days before the harassed crew could regain their station. Their companions on shore, indeed, had given them up for lost; and this may be considered as one of the most miraculous escapes, in an expedition which was pregnant with disasters, as well as with wonderful turns of good fortune.

About the middle of October, 1742, the commodore again put to sea, and after a variety of adventures arrived at Macao in China; where he resisted the exactions of that mercenary people, with a spirit that did honour to his sovereign and the British flag.

Here the *Centurion* being completely refitted, Anson, concealing his design, steered back as far as the Philippine islands, with a view of intercepting the annual *Acapulco* ships; and in this respect fortune at last was propitious to him.

After encountering a series of disasters, in a voyage of nearly three years, relieved only by gleams of partial success, on the 20th of June, 1743, one of the wished-for ships was descried: and after a vigorous contest, in which British spirit and conduct prevailed over numbers and strength, the prize was carried, and considerably upwards of half a million sterling was the reward of victory. He now proceeded to Canton; where having put the treasure on board his own ship, he disposed of the Spaniards and their galleon, and directed his course to England.

No occurrence particularly memorable attended his voyage, till he entered the Channel; but here he had another proof of that providential care which had rescued him from so many antecedent perils: for a French fleet

was cruising in this latitude ; and he passed through the midst of it, unnoticed, in a fog. In short, during his circumnavigation of the globe, which took up a period of three years and nine months, he repeatedly confirmed by his own experience and conduct the policy of the maxim, *Nil desperandum*, (that “ nothing is to be despaired of,”) which he afterwards assumed as his motto.

The treasure taken by the Centurion was conveyed in a number of waggons, decorated with Spanish flags, through the streets of London to the Tower, amidst the loudest acclamations of the populace ; and the commodore was loaded with honours and congratulation.

After this, Anson rapidly rose to the highest ranks in his profession, was returned to parliament, and made one of the lords of the admiralty. In 1747, being appointed to the command of a squadron, he had the good fortune to fall in with a French fleet off Cape Finisterre ; and notwithstanding a spirited resistance on the part of the enemy, took six men-of-war, and four of the Indiamen which they were convoying. The elegant compliment which M. de la Jonquiere, the French admiral, paid the victor on presenting his sword, deserves to be remembered. Pointing to two of his ships, whose names gave beauty and force to the expression, he said, “ Sir, you have vanquished the Invincible, and Glory follows you.”

It has long been a wise policy, to confer peculiar distinctions on those naval heroes who have successfully supported the glory of the British flag. To a man of honour who devotes his life to maritime or military pursuits, pecuniary gratification is but a secondary object ; he toils for celebrity, and it should be paid him with no sparing hand. This gallant officer, as a reward of his merit, received a peerage, by the title of lord Anson, baron of Soberton in Hants ; and the same year succeeded to the high rank of vice-admiral of England. He had likewise the honour to be selected to convoy king George the Second to and from the continent on several occasions ;

and when our late excellent queen Charlotte was chosen to grace the throne, lord Anson was appointed to conduct her majesty to England.

In 1751, his lordship had been made first lord of the admiralty; a post which he was excellently qualified to fill, being a capital judge of merit; and which he held, with little intermission, to the time of his death. His services by sea however were not discontinued, when his country required his bravery and skill. In 1758, he sailed from Spithead with a formidable fleet, having under his command the gallant sir Edward Hawke; and materially contributed to facilitate the descents made at St. Malo's, and other places on the enemy's coast. At last he was appointed admiral and commander-in-chief of his majesty's fleets, and his professional honours could rise no higher.

The fatigues incident to a seafaring life had gradually undermined his lordship's constitution: and for many months before his death, he had been in a very languishing state of health. At last he found business insupportable, and company too fatiguing to his spirits; and retired to his seat at Moor-park in Hertfordshire, where he died suddenly without any actual confinement to his room or his bed. His lordship married the honourable miss Yorke, eldest daughter of the earl of Hardwicke, lord-high-chancellor of Great Britain; but left no children, and thus the title became extinct in the direct line.

As an officer, lord Anson was distinguished for inflexible perseverance, and a command of temper which rendered him intrepid in the midst of danger, and sedate in every change of fortune. In private life he was honest and unsuspecting; and thus became the dupe of gamblers and sharpers. An unfortunate attachment to gaming, the dishonest tricks of which he did not understand, and had too much integrity to practise, exposed him to losses and misfortunes, which greatly diminished his dearly-earned wealth, and made him the ridicule of his more *running* associates. It was often remarked of him,

“ that he had been *round* the world, but never *in* it.” He was too sincere to be fashionably polished, too ingenuous to profess what he did not feel ; the artful preyed on his simplicity, and the conqueror of his enemies was frequently vanquished by his pretended friends.

When the baneful infatuation of play gains an ascendancy over the mind of a good man, he is in the direct road to ruin ; when it seizes the unprincipled, he soon becomes a finished villain. Harsh as the term may seem, that man is the worst of villains, who by his superior skill in an art where honour and virtue would scorn proficiency, practises on the unsuspecting, involves the helpless and innocent in distress, and braves the detection of the honest, by the plunder which he has acquired

There are two vices which, when they have once laid full hold upon the heart, seem not only to be incurable, but to gain strength with years. These are the love of gaming, and the love of wine—the epitome of all ills, the aggregate of infamy and ruin.

May these serious reflections have the effect which is intended on the youthful and uncorrupted breast ! If only one is warned by them to avoid these two great destroyers of fortune and of fame, of health and peace, this well-meant page will not have been penned in vain !

PHILIP YORKE,
EARL OF HARDWICKE,
LORD CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND.

Born 1691. — Died 1764.

From 2d William III. to 4th George III.

THAT the law, above all other professions, opens a scene for the display of superior abilities, has been remarked on a former occasion. That its practice, however, some-

times cramps the energies of independence, and leads the ambitious to sacrifice the love of virtue to the love of gain, is also to be lamented, but cannot be denied. The study of the legal science naturally teaches prudence and reflection: it forbids the mind to pursue the blandishments of fancy, and fixes it in the empire of reason. Reason recommends what is expedient, rather than what is right; and its decisions are commonly proper though the motives which influence them may not always be pure. These observations, however, are not to be taken in their utmost latitude; nor have they any particular application to the distinguished subject of the following memoirs.

Philip Yorke was born in London, of a respectable rather than an opulent family; but whatever might be the rank or situation of his ancestors, his own merit certainly paved the way to what he afterwards became. This is the highest praise that can be paid to his memory, that he rose to distinction by his talents alone; and thus reflected honour on the patronage which he acquired, and the titles which he transmitted to his posterity.

His education must have been well conducted, but he unquestionably owed more to genius and application; without which, opportunities of improvement are of little avail. Being designed for an attorney, at a proper age he was articled to a gentleman eminent in that branch of the profession, and served his clerkship with credit; but he felt that he was not in his element, when confined to the drudgery of an office; and was no sooner his own master, then he entered himself of the society of Lincoln's-inn.

In due time he was called to the bar: and while a very young man acquired such high reputation as a pleader, that in 1720 he was raised to the office of solicitor-general. In three years more he became attorney-general; and in this capacity, which frequently admits and requires the utmost extent of legal knowledge, he displayed an astonishing eloquence, a profound and intimate acquaintance with English jurisprudence, and was universally allowed to be the first lawyer of his day.

Thus gifted, and placed in a situation where full scope was given to his powers, and their exercise could not be unnoticed, it is not extraordinary that his subsequent elevation was rapid. When no more than forty-two years of age, he was appointed chief justice of the court of king's-bench; and four years afterwards, attained the highest rank that the law can confer on her most distinguished votaries, by being raised to the supreme seat of equity.

For the dignified office of lord-chancellor, it was universally allowed at the time, that the kingdom could not furnish a more proper person. His elevation therefore was free from envy; it was even acceptable to his brethren at the bar. The title of baron Hardwicke was conferred on him at the same time, and the nation re-echoed the approbation of their sovereign.

To detail the various instances of assiduity, and the very impartial administration of justice, conspicuous in this great lawyer, for the long period of twenty years, during which he held the seals, would be here impossible. The equality of his temper, the strength of his judgment, and his intuitive sagacity, were alike confessed and admired.

When the noble but infatuated partizans of rebellion in Scotland were brought to trial, Hardwicke was appointed lord-high-steward of England. This furnished him with a fresh opportunity of displaying his consummate powers of oratory; and the speech which he delivered, when passing sentence on the rebel lords, is deservedly ranked among the finest specimens of eloquence, that modern times have produced.

In 1754 the chancellor was raised to the dignity of earl: but two years after, when the illustrious William Pitt (afterwards earl of Chatham) was called to the helm of government, his lordship was obliged to resign. That great statesman, however he might respect lord Hardwicke's legal abilities, considered him as a weak politician, and besides, he was aware of his influence in the cabinet;

which in numerous instances had rather been exerted to aggrandize his own family or particular friends, than directed to the public welfare. It was lord Hardwicke's object to strengthen his own interest, and to advance the fortunes of his connections; and he seems to have adopted a common but mistaken policy, of recommending weak and ill-qualified persons to fill important places, that they might be more subservient to his controul. This stratagem may be serviceable for a moment, but proves delusive in the end. A man of talents will feel the tie of honour and of gratitude, with a force which ignoble and uncultivated minds can never know. Abilities reflect back the credit of patronage; but ignorance and incapacity are the shame of their supporters.

After his resignation, the earl of Hardwicke retired from public life; but he did not long enjoy the calm of ease. In 1764 he was called to pay the debt of nature; and (what must have given consolation to his departing hours) he was able to declare on his death-bed, "that he had never wronged any man to increase his fortune; nor acquired a single acre of land which he could not, in his last moments, reflect upon with tranquillity." To feel the consciousness of integrity when sublunary joys are failing, is the sweetest satisfaction; and, to ensure it, should be the first study of life!

That lord Hardwicke was both an able and an upright judge, admits of no dispute. Though many appeals were brought to the House of Lords from his decrees, not one of them was reversed. That he was a most eloquent speaker, and a good man, his worst enemies are ready to confess. The great stain on his private character was a mercenary and craving disposition. To provide for a family which he had raised to the most honourable distinction, was not only fair but praise-worthy; yet to direct every favour which his interest could command into one channel, though it may be palliated, cannot be excused. It is said that his royal master, who had been abundantly generous and indulgent to him, at last gave him a severe

check, when he found that his reiterated applications had only one object in view. A man of elevated rank, and extensive influence, should be the patron of unprotected worth, though unconnected with himself by natural ties; nor suffer either partiality or prejudice to bias his judgment, and intercept his bounty.

As a politician, lord Hardwicke was unfortunate in his prepossessions, and very confined in his principles. He opposed the militia-bill, on the futile grounds of danger in arming the people; and even when it had passed into a law, he is said to have exerted himself, wherever he had influence, to prevent its effect. He also had a principal share in promoting the existing marriage-act; which, though not destitute of utility, is supposed to militate against those leading principles that have ever been the guide of free communities. Generally speaking, to encourage matrimony is to encourage virtue, and consequently adds to the stability of governments; to clog it with restraints which have a tendency to violate the strongest affections of the heart, may sooth the pride of unimpassioned avarice, but can neither increase domestic happiness nor public security. In a word, lord Hardwicke was rather a great lawyer than a great man. Had he shunned the region of politics, his fame would have raised him above almost every person of his age: but his views were too limited for a statesman; and almost every measure in which he engaged, rendered him unpopular, or evinced his narrow prejudices. Yet let us not detract from his real merits. Universal excellence is not an attribute of man. The illustrious qualities which he possessed and practised for many years, at the bar and on the bench, justify his claim to the gratitude of Englishmen, as a shining ornament of his country

SIR JOHN BARNARD.

Born 1685. — Died 1766.

From 1st James II. to 6th George III.

UTILITY is not confined to particular pursuits; nor are worth and merit the peculiar growth of any soil. Many pillars of our country have been reared on a plebeian base; while numbers have been found prouder to erect trophies of their own, than to boast the reflected honours of ancestry. In every station laurels may be earned, and a solid reputation may be acquired. In the senate, at the bar, in the pulpit or the school, in the field or on the ocean, in mercantile engagements or mechanical pursuits, in the peaceful shade of philosophic retirement, nay, even in the inferior occupations of agriculture and the arts, a man may be honourably and usefully employed, and discharge his duty to his conscience and his country.

To confine the praise of merit to a particular rank or profession, denotes a narrow and an illiberal mind. Superior worth sometimes shines forth at once with every advantage that fortune can bestow; while at other times it surmounts the impediments of situation by its native strength: thus it diffused a glory round the head of Barnard.

This upright and patriotic citizen was born at Reading, in Berkshire. His parents belonged to the respectable society of quakers, and he was educated at one of their seminaries; but it is said that he derived very little benefit from early instruction in classical and polite literature. This deficiency, however, his native good sense, and love of knowledge, induced him to supply by such auxiliaries as afterwards fell within his reach. Translations gave him an intimate acquaintance with the sub-

stance of ancient learning ; and thus he became extremely well-informed in books.

Being inquisitive and penetrating, he sought for truth, unbiassed by early prejudices ; and quitting the society of quakers when very young, received baptism from the hands of Compton bishop of London, in Fulham chapel.

His father carried on the business of a wine-merchant ; and by him he was brought up to the same trade, in which he afterwards successfully engaged on his own account in the city of London.

His abilities, his general knowledge, and the integrity of his conduct, soon rendered him conspicuous among his fellow-citizens ; and such was the opinion which they entertained of him, that he was elected one of their representatives in the year 1722. In this honourable situation, he remained during seven successive parliaments ; and amidst all the revolutions that took place both in city and public politics, was so firmly established in the esteem of his constituents, that his name always appeared at the head of the list in every new election ; and with whatever opposition others had to contend, none of any consequence was ever attempted against this favourite member. Indeed the zeal, the diligence, and the capacity, which he displayed in the discharge of this important trust, were so eminent, as to merit and receive unqualified applause ; and he is justly considered as one of the most spirited, able, and independent characters, ever delegated to the House of Commons by the metropolis of the British empire.

The senate was the point of view in which he particularly shone ; and his conduct here laid the foundation of his fame. His judgment might be erroneous, but his vote was always honest. If he was generally in opposition to the ministry, it was not from the love of dissent, or from an interested view of supplanting them in office ; but from the purest conviction that their proceedings militated against the public welfare, or the individual interests of that great commercial city which he represented.

When a bill was brought into parliament, in 1725, "for regulating elections within the city of London; and for preserving the peace, good order, and government, of the said city;" Barnard strenuously opposed it as an infringement of the city's rights, and contrary to its charter; particularly in depriving numbers of their elective franchise, which they had enjoyed from time immemorial.

The citizens were heard by counsel at the bar of the house. Crowds, who thought themselves injured or affected by the clauses of this bill, tumultuously assembled every day at Westminster; their complaints were loud and menacing, and government thought it necessary to double the guards. After much opposition, however, the bill passed, with various modifications; and sir John Barnard received thanks from the court of common council, for the active part which he had taken in asserting the liberties of his fellow-citizens.

Not long after, this virtuous representative was chosen alderman of Dowgate ward; and omitted no opportunity, in his double capacity of magistrate and senator, to promote the honour and welfare of the metropolis, and indeed of the whole empire. He prepared a bill, in 1729, for the better encouragement and regulation of sailors in the merchant-service; which he carried through the house with great credit. The same session gave also a signal proof of his humane and benevolent disposition, in exerting himself to redress the scandalous enormities that had been committed in the Fleet and other prisons; in the former of which, the warden had dared to put several of the unfortunate debtors in irons; and by his gross venality, had suffered others to escape. The indignation of our worthy citizen was upon this roused to the highest pitch. He made a pathetic representation to the house, of the various abuses which he had detected in that prison; and was not only instrumental in bringing the iniquitous warden and his agents to justice, but also in procuring an act of insolvency, and in framing such

regulations as would prevent arbitrary and illegal practices by the keepers in future.

When sir Robert Walpole proposed his famous excise scheme in 1733, the attention of every member who wished well to the liberties of the subject was called to a measure which, however advantageous in a financial point of view, certainly appeared fraught with the most dangerous consequences to the genuine principles of our constitution. Sir John Barnard took a leading part in the spirited debate, which was maintained on this bill. He contended that the project would deprive a number of persons of their ancient birthright, the trial by jury, the last unimpaired privilege that remained to Englishmen; that though his majesty should never make a bad use of the power intended to be given him, his successors might; and that a slave who has the good fortune to meet with a humane master, is nevertheless a slave. "Our liberties are too valuable," added he, "and were purchased at too dear a price, to be sported with, or wantonly given up even to the best of kings. I hope we have the same regard for them that our ancestors had; and if so, we shall certainly use all peaceable means to preserve them. If, however, such should prove ineffectual, I trust there is no Englishman but would use those methods his ancestors have used, in transmitting his liberties to his posterity, in the same glorious condition he found them in; and not sacrifice the constitution to the poor pretence of suppressing a few frauds, in the collection of the public revenue."

While this business was in agitation, the avenues to the house of commons were filled with multitudes of people: the ministerial members were grossly insulted: and sir Robert Walpole himself, in a paroxysm of passion, (to which however he was little subject,) having applied the term "sturdy beggars" to the clamorous petitioners at the door, met with a very severe retort from sir John Barnard; and was only saved from the fury of

the mob by the resolution of a friend, who protected him with a drawn sword.

So obnoxious was this scheme to the great body of the people, and so jealous had they now become of any encroachment on their liberties, that ministers thought proper to abandon it at that time; on which event public rejoicings took place, as if some signal victory had been gained over a foreign enemy.

Sir John Barnard had acquired such reputation as a public speaker, and such influence from the tried integrity and independence of his character, that he was always heard with respect; and his plans for the public good were frequently adopted. But though he gained the greatest share of his popularity in opposing some favourite plans of the minister; yet he was as ready to support him whenever his conscience and a sense of duty would permit. Being attached to no party, but a zealous friend to constitutional liberty and the interests of his country, his vote was always the free-offering of a virtuous mind; and the part which he took in public affairs, was stained with no bias to sinister views of private interest. He boldly contended for settling such an annual income on Frederic prince of Wales, as would render him independent of the minister; and declared his opinion that the heir-apparent, or any other prince of the royal family, ought to have such a certain revenue as was consistent with his own dignity and that of the nation. He was likewise very instrumental in lowering the interest of the public debt; by taking advantage of the facility with which money might be raised, without the smallest violation of public credit.

To particularize every patriotic effort of this distinguished citizen, however useful his example might be to such as aspire to the honours which he received, would extend this article too far. In the year 1738, he served the office of lord-mayor; and discharged the duties of this important station with the same assiduity, firmness, and impartiality, which had marked his former life. As

a magistrate, indeed, his conduct was a perfect model for imitation. He was governor of several hospitals and other public charities: and was ever vigilant, active, and disinterested, in the discharge of those important trusts. In 1749 he became father of the city: but at length the infirmities of age suspended his honourable and useful services. He requested leave to resign his alderman's gown. The solemn thanks given him by the city of London on this occasion, were the best testimony of his merit; and will remain a lasting eulogy on his character. Among other qualities becoming a magistrate and a man, he was thanked "for his wise, vigilant, and impartial administration of justice; his unwearied zeal for the honour, safety, and prosperity, of his fellow-citizens; his inviolable attachment to the laws and liberties of his country; and for the noble example which he had set, of a long and uninterrupted course of virtue, in private as well as public life."

With this enviable character sir John Barnard retired to his country-seat at Clapham; where he expired full of days and honour, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. As a further proof of the high sense which his fellow-citizens entertained of his signal services, his statue was erected in his life-time on the Royal Exchange, in his robes of magistracy.

GEORGE, LORD LYTTTELTON.

Born 1708. — Died 1773.

From 6th Anne, to 13th George III.

Wealth, power, and titles, — pageants of a day,
 Ungrac'd with merit, shed a feeble ray.
 Soon sinks the fame not rais'd on true desert,
 And all the praise that lives not in the heart;

Soon sinks the pride from ancestry that flows : —
 The splendid villains are but public shows ;
 Awhile they blaze, and catch the simple eye ;
 Then melt in air like meteors in the sky.
 Not thus nobility with worth conjoin'd,
 Its lustre spreads, and leaves a track behind.
 The gifts of fortune, in a good man's power,
 Are but the needy wretch's certain dower ;
 They raise the languid, dry affliction's tear ;
 To some give fame, in Lyttelton endear.

M.

THIS illustrious and excellent man was descended from a very ancient family, which had been seated for centuries in Worcestershire ; and which had produced several distinguished characters at different periods, and among others judge Lyttelton, who flourished in the reign of Henry the Fourth. He was the eldest son of sir Thomas Lyttelton, by a sister of lord viscount Cobham ; and was born at Hagley, which he found, when he came to his inheritance, prepared by nature for the elysium to which his delicate taste converted it.

His birth is said to have been premature, and in consequence he was with difficulty reared. Gradually, however, gaining a tolerable strength of constitution, he was sent to Eton school ; where he soon attracted the notice of his masters, by the superior manner in which his exercises were finished ; and early discovered a taste for the beauties of poetical composition, — an almost infallible mark of a refined and elegant mind. At that seminary he wrote his pastorals, and some other pieces ; which would have given him a considerable rank in the train of the muses, independently of those advantages to which he was born, and which set off his natural endowments in the most conspicuous light.

Having removed to Christchurch, Oxford, he pursued his academical studies with unusual avidity, and with a success correspondent to his application. Not satisfied with the mere performance of what was expected from him, his genius prompted him to court fame as a writer : — and his “ *Blenheim*,” if it did not much enhance his re-

putation as a poet among real judges, yet, from the popularity of the subject, and the great man who was the hero of it, rendered him more generally admired. At the university too he sketched his *Persian Letters*, one of the most original of all his works; and which for purity of language, and the knowledge of life and manners which it displays, has gained him a permanent reputation. It may be considered as a classical English production, and will always be read with improvement and delight.

After a short stay at Oxford, he commenced his travels. At Paris he became acquainted with the British ambassador, Mr. Poyntz: who was so struck with the uncommon capacity of Lyttelton, that he warmly patronized him; and employed him in some political negotiations, which he dispatched in such a manner, as confirmed the high opinion that had been formed of his talents and his address.

When he set out on his travels, he had formed a proper estimate of the useful purposes to which they might be applied; and he determined to derive from them all the benefit and improvement, which an extensive intercourse with mankind is capable of conferring. He did not post through a country like a courier; nor did he indulge in the dissipation or frivolities of the people among whom he stopped. On the contrary, he associated only with men of rank, in the political or literary world, from whom he enlarged the stores of his mind; or, by observation and enquiry, traced the advantages and defects of public institutions, or the various modes of private life. In order to connect him more strongly with the country which was still dearest to him, and in which he had left some valuable friends, he kept up a regular private correspondence; and likewise a poetical one, in two epistles to Dr. Ayscough and Mr. Pope.

Under the friendly and affectionate auspices of Mr. Poyntz, who seems to have loved him as a son, he remained some time at Paris. At Turin, he was received in *the most condescending and flattering manner* by his

Sardinian majesty. In the capital towns of Italy, particularly at Rome, he applied himself to the study of the fine arts; and such were the correctness and the purity of his taste, that he was justly esteemed an excellent connoisseur, though so young a man.

His letters to his father, during his travels, which are still extant, evince his filial piety; and are models of dutiful affection. This point of character should not be overlooked; it stamps the amiable bias of his soul. He who is deficient in duty to his parents, may possess great, but can never be entitled to the praise of good qualities. He is not formed to relish the most solid satisfaction: he can neither be perfectly happy himself, nor communicate happiness to others.

Returning to his native country in the possession of the most valuable attainments, he obtained a seat in parliament for the borough of Oakhampton; and soon entered the lists of opposition, against sir Robert Walpole. His abilities as a public speaker were very considerable, and he was not averse to display his talents: no important debate arose in which he did not take a share. As he had joined what was called the patriotic party, (though true patriotism certainly allows no party-spirit,) he was soon introduced to the favour of Frederic prince of Wales; and in the year 1737 became principal secretary to his royal highness, in which capacity he served him with integrity and zeal.

But though he was now confessedly a politician, the brilliancy of his classical genius was not obscured. Indeed he had now a fresh cause of inspiration. Miss Lucy Fortescue, a young lady of uncommon beauty and merit, had taught him to feel the tenderest sentiments of love; and he breathed his attachment to her, in some of the most delicate and elegant verses that ever poet penned to his mistress. The amiableness of his own disposition gave him the sincerest regard for similar qualities in others; and in the year 1742 he was united to the object of his fondest affection. As no cold suggestions of inte-

rest had joined them, their conjugal felicity was uninterrupted, till the moment when it was closed for ever. In four short years, his lady, who was a model of domestic virtue, was called to another world; leaving him with an infant son and daughter, the pledges of their mutual affection. The grief which Mr. Lyttelton felt on this occasion was equal to the loss he had sustained. His beautiful monody to the memory of his lady will perpetuate her name and his own conjugal affection: it is one of the most pathetic pieces in our language. The following inscription on her tomb in the church of Hagley was also a tribute of his ardent love. It paints a woman of fashion as she ought to be: it delineates a character, which must be admired and loved wherever it is known. Happy the wife who deserves it: happy, thrice happy, the husband who can apply it to the partner of his life!

Made to engage all hearts, and charm all eyes;
Though meek, magnanimous; though witty, wise:
Polite, as all her life in courts had been;
Yet good, as she the world had never seen;
The noble fire of an exalted mind,
With gentlest female tenderness combin'd;
Her speech was the melodious voice of Love,
Her song the warbling of the vernal grove;
Her eloquence was sweeter than her song,
Soft as her heart, and as her reason strong;
Her form each beauty of her mind express'd,
Her mind was virtue by the Graces dress'd.

Two years before this lamented separation, Mr. Lyttelton had been appointed one of the lords of the treasury; and, inspired with the flame of genius himself, he no sooner possessed the power, than he became the patron of genius in others. Fielding, Thomson, Mallet, Young, Hammond, West, and Pope, either tasted his bounty, or were honoured by his countenance. His generous regard to Thomson did not die with the object of it. He revised his orphan tragedy of *Coriolanus*, for the benefit of the deceased poet's relations; and wrote such an affecting

prologue, that the celebrated Quin burst into tears as he recited it, while the audience melted into sympathetic feeling with the actor.

But though Lyttelton had now become a public man and a patron, he did not suffer the avocations of business, or the increase of favour, to lure him from more serious concerns. In the sprightliness of juvenile confidence, in the vanity of conceit and affectation, he had been led away by doubts respecting the authenticity of Revelation; he felt the pangs of uncertainty on such a momentous subject; he diligently applied himself to "search the Scriptures;" and, in the result, their internal evidence afforded to his honest and unprejudiced mind a firm conviction of their truth.

Being anxious to remove from others that veil which had dimmed his own prospects, he published, soon after the death of his lady, "Observations on the Conversion and Apostleship of St. Paul." The incidents attending this part of Scripture history had appeared so striking, as to effect his entire conversion to the belief of Christianity; and infidelity itself has never been able to fabricate even a specious reply to his judicious and able defence of our holy religion. It had the happiest effect on the times in which it was produced; and as often as it is read with seriousness and candour, it will either convince or confound the sceptic.

Notwithstanding the violence of Lyttelton's grief for the loss of his lady, he judged it expedient to enter again into the state of matrimony; and he fixed on a daughter of sir Robert Rich. In the heart that has once tenderly and truly loved, perhaps the enthusiasm of affection can never be a second time renewed; and wedlock, even when contracted under the happiest omens, is so much influenced by minute circumstances, by temper, habit, and a congenial or contradictory disposition, that it need not be wondered at, if his second union did not produce all the felicity which he had once tasted, and which he *hadly* hoped again to enjoy.

In 1751, on his father's death, he succeeded to the baronetage, and the family estate at Hagley. The latter he did not augment, but was careful to adorn: and by his judicious and elegant taste, he made it one of the most delightful spots in the kingdom.

By a diligent discharge of his parliamentary duty, and powers of eloquence which commanded attention, he gradually rose to some of the highest offices of the state. When a violent clamour was raised against the bill which had been passed for the naturalization of the Jews, Lyttelton made a speech in favour of its repeal, which for elegance and spirit, propriety of sentiment, and soundness of principle, may be thought a rival to the purest models of antiquity; and certainly equals any thing that modern times have produced.

After reprobating the arguments which had been urged against the existing bill, he considered its probable effects in the present temper of the nation; ably discriminated between steadiness in essentials, and a compliance with harmless, though perhaps mistaken opinions; and gave unanswerable reasons for the simple repeal of the act, beyond which he thought all concession to popular clamour would be weak and dangerous in the extreme. "It would open," said the animated orator, "a door to the wildest enthusiasm, and the most mischievous attacks of political disaffection working on that enthusiasm. If you encourage and authorize it to fall on the synagogue, it will go from thence to the meeting-houses, and in the end to the palace. The more zealous we are to support Christianity, the more vigilant should we be in maintaining toleration. If we bring back persecution, we bring back the antichristian spirit of popery: and when the spirit is here, the whole system will soon follow. Toleration is the basis of all public quiet. It is a character of freedom given to the mind, more valuable, I think, than that which secures our persons and estates. Indeed they are inseparably connected together; for where the mind is

not free, where the conscience is enthralled, there is no freedom."

Such distinguished abilities, accompanied by the best virtues of the heart, might be supposed to have perpetuated the political influence of Lyttelton: but literature engrossed most of his attention; and he was more anxious to discover moral truth, than to guard against political intrigue. At intervals, he favoured the world with his celebrated "Dialogues of the Dead," and his elaborate "History of Henry the Second;" thus dividing his time between the duties of his public functions, the pursuits of elegant literature, and the society of the learned and the great: till a change of ministry taking place in the year 1757, he was raised to the peerage, and retired from the agitation of state affairs. From that period lord Lyttelton was only known as a statesman, by occasional speeches in his parliamentary capacity: he lived chiefly at his beautiful seat at Hagley, endeared to his neighbours and to mankind by the exercise of every humane quality, and the practice of every virtue.

Lord Lyttelton had never an athletic appearance; his frame was slender, and his face meagre and pale. Yet he reached the sixty-fourth year of his age, exempt from much bodily infirmity; when he was seized with his last illness, and resigned his breath with the hope and confidence of immortality. A little before his decease, when all hopes of life were extinguished, he thus addressed himself to the physician: "Doctor, you shall be my confessor. When I first set out in the world, I had friends who endeavoured to shake my belief in the Christian religion. I saw difficulties which staggered me; but I kept my mind open to conviction. The evidences and doctrines of Christianity, studied with attention, made me a most firm believer of its truth. I have made it the rule of my life, and it is now the ground of my hopes. — In politics and public life, I have made the public good the rule of my conduct. I never gave counsels which I did *not think* the best at the time. I have seen that I was

sometimes in the wrong ; but I did not err designedly. I have endeavoured, in private life, to do all the good in my power ; and never for a moment could indulge malicious or unjust designs upon any person whatsoever."

When the last moment approached, he gave his daughter lady Valentia and her husband, who came to see him, his solemn benediction: adding, " Be good, be virtuous, my lord ; you must come to this." In short, his dying scene was the best comment on a well-spent life ; it evinced unaffected magnanimity, pious resignation, and Christian hope. To the last, his understanding was unimpaired ; his closing hour exhibiting the brightest pattern of the Christian's triumph over death. Whoever copies this virtuous and amiable example, can with well-founded hope exclaim, " Oh, may my last end be like his !"

WILLIAM PITT,

EARL OF CHATHAM.

Born 1707. — Died 1778.

From 5th Q. Anne to 18th Geo. III.

" I DID not intend to make a public declaration of the respect I bear lord Chatham ; but I am called upon to deliver my opinion, and even the pen of Junius shall contribute to reward him. Recorded honours shall gather round his monument, and thicken over him. It is a solid fabric, and will support the laurels that adorn it. — I am not conversant with the language of panegyric. These praises are extorted from me ; but they will wear well, as they have been dearly earned."

Such was the elegant eulogy paid by the celebrated JUNIUS to the earl of Chatham, before the curtain had

dropped on the statesman's labours, and his part in the drama was completed. But firmness and consistency were his lordship's characteristics; and from his prior life, the above able and penetrating writer might well predict that the close would be in unison with it.

William Pitt, who filled such a wide and honourable space in the public eye, whose glories are still fresh in the memory of his countrymen and of Europe, and whose well-earned fame will endure as long as the nation which gave him birth, was son of Robert Pitt, esq. of Boconnock in Cornwall. This family was originally of Dorsetshire, where it had long been respectably established; but no ancestors could reflect additional lustre on a man so truly great.

Eton, which has produced so many illustrious names, had the honour of his classical education. Thence he was removed to Trinity college, Oxford, which may well be proud of such a pupil.

———— Nor thou refuse

This humble present of no partial muse,

From that calm bower which nursed thy thoughtful youth

In the pure precepts of Athenian truth;

When first the form of British Liberty

Beam'd in full radiance on thy musing eye.

WARTON.

Mr. Pitt has left some testimonies of his homage to the Muses; and that he possessed a poetic imagination, the fervid pathos and imagery of his eloquence will place beyond a doubt. General literature, however, absorbed his principal attention: and by a singular connection of causes and effects, what seemed the greatest misfortune of his life, very probably led to its most exalted splendour. Scarcely had he reached the sixteenth year of his age, when he became a martyr to an hereditary gout. A delicacy of constitution, and the restraints which it imposes, are generally propitious to study and reflection. Pitt had neither taste nor strength of frame to engage deep in dissipation; and his genius soared above the vulgar al-

lurements of vicious pleasure. He devoted the leisure and confinement of indisposition to the acquirement of a vast fund of premature and useful knowledge ; which in due time he brought forward, at once to astonish and confound.

After receiving a liberal education, he procured a commission as cornet in a regiment of horse : but the senate, not the camp, was the scene where he was best qualified to shine. His friends, among whom Sarah, duchess of Marlborough was the most zealous, forming a due estimate of his talents, accordingly brought him into parliament for the borough of Old Sarum, in the year 1735 ; and he early distinguished himself in the ranks of opposition.

The minister, sir Robert Walpole, was alarmed at the very sound of his voice, and the lightning of his eye ; but when he witnessed the impetuous torrent of his eloquence, he is said to have told his friends that he should be glad “ to muzzle that terrible cornet of horse at any rate.” Pitt, however, had chosen his part, and knew his powers. Being enamoured of virtue and public spirit, no military prospects, nor ministerial honours, could divert him from the cause which he deemed honourable ; and when he lost his commission in consequence of his spirited behaviour in parliament, Lyttelton paid him the following elegant compliment, which at the same time conveys a bitter ironical sarcasm on the minister :

Long had thy virtue mark'd thee out for fame,
Far, far superior to a cornet's name.
This generous Walpole saw : and griev'd to find
So mean a post disgrace that noble mind ;
The servile standard from thy free-born hand
He took, and bade thee lead the patriot band.

To particularize every instance of the nervous dazzling eloquence of Pitt, even during his noviciate, would be to write the parliamentary history of several years. In the *debate on the bill for registering seamen*, which Mr. Pitt

represented as arbitrary and unjust, Mr. Horatio Walpole, having sarcastically remarked on his youth and animated gesture, met with a cutting retort, which, if transcribed at full length, would afford a specimen of that glowing and impassioned language which was characteristic of the speaker: "I will not undertake," said he, "to determine whether youth can justly be imputed to any man as a reproach; but I will affirm that the wretch, who, after having seen the consequence of repeated errors, continues still to blunder, and whose age has only added obstinacy to stupidity, is surely the object either of abhorrence or contempt, and deserves not that his gray hair should secure him from insult. Much more is he to be abhorred, who, as he has advanced in age, has receded from virtue, and becomes more wicked with less temptation; who prostitutes himself for money which he cannot enjoy, and spends the remainder of his life in the ruin of his country."

Frederic prince of Wales, who had long been the rallying point of opposition; and who, consistently with his noble sentiments, took men of genius, talents, and honesty, under his protection; appointed Mr. Pitt a groom of the bedchamber, which office he held till the year 1745: and for his firm adherence to the patriotic side, he experienced about the same time an exalted proof, though not the only one, of the estimation in which he was held by the public. The duchess of Marlborough, who to a masculine understanding united a zeal to be distinguished as a politician, having, from his first entrance into life, supported Mr. Pitt by her patronage, now left him a very honourable testimony of her regard, in a legacy of ten thousand pounds; expressly, as she declared, "for defending the laws of his country, and warding off its ruin."

But abilities such as his could not always remain in useless opposition. He was formed to exalt the honour of his country, and to direct its councils: and when its affairs were conducted in a manner which enabled him to participate in its administration, without any dereliction of

principle, in 1746 he accepted the office of joint treasurer of Ireland ; and the same year became treasurer and paymaster of the army, and was sworn a privy counsellor. But though now engaged to the court by interest, he did not sacrifice the independence of his vote to any partial views. He knew the unpopularity attached to continental connections ; his better sense saw their destructive tendency ; his patriotism led him to oppose them : and in consequence he made a temporary resignation of all his places.

He did not, however, remain long unemployed. In December, 1756, he was appointed secretary of state for the southern department, with unbounded public applause : but in a short time he discerned that he could not be acceptable to his sovereign without deserting the interests of the people ; and by a man who placed his glory in patriotic upright conduct, the choice was easily made. The love and confidence of the nation had contributed to make him what he was : he foresaw that these might be alienated by indifference, and might be lost by presumption ; but so well was he fixed in the public opinion, that he knew it would accompany him, while he studied by honourable means to retain it. In a short time after his resignation, his hopes were realized ; the voice of the people was so loudly expressed in his favour, and their affection seemed so strongly rivetted to his interest, that it was deemed politic to recall him to the cabinet, with a large addition of power. In June 1757 he was again appointed secretary of state, with the full authority of prime minister. His colleagues were either men of his own principles, or wholly subservient to his more enlarged views.

The preceding ministry had been both unfortunate and unpopular. The war in which the nation had been engaged, was carried on without spirit and without success. But no sooner was Mr. Pitt placed at the helm, than his active genius pervaded every department of the state ; his spirit animated the whole nation. His plans were conceived with ability, and executed with a vigour and promptitude that astonished both friends and enemies. The for-

tune of the war was changed, and victory attended the arms of Britain, wherever her military operations were directed. Europe, Asia, and America, felt and acknowledged the influence of this able minister. The French were defeated in every quarter of the globe; their navy, their commerce, and their finances, in the period of a very few years, were brought to the verge of ruin. "Meanwhile," to adopt the words of an elegant writer, "the glory of Mr. Pitt advanced like a regular fabric. Gradual in its commencement, it however discovered to the discerning eye a grandeur of design, and promised the most magnificent effects. By degrees it disclosed beauty, utility, and majesty: it outstretched the eye of the spectator, and hid its head among the clouds."

Amidst the brilliant career of success which might thus be fairly ascribed, under Providence, to the virtuous energies of one man, his majesty George the Second died. About this period, the French had succeeded in obtaining the co-operation of Spain by secret intrigues; which however did not elude the vigilance, or escape the penetration of Mr. Pitt. He had procured private, though certain intelligence of the Bourbon compact; and with his usual vigour of decision, wished to strike the first blow against Spain. He proposed in council, that war should be immediately declared against that power, and orders instantly sent to capture her vessels: urging with the utmost energy, the impolicy of suffering her to put herself into a posture of defence, and to secure her treasure before she threw off the mask. Other sentiments now influenced the cabinet than when Mr. Pitt began his career. He found the members disposed to temporize, and to pause, before they created a new enemy. "I will not give them leave to think," replied the indignant minister; "this is the time, let us crush the whole house of Bourbon. But if the members of this board are of a different opinion, this is the last time I shall ever mix in its councils. I was called into the ministry by the voice of the people, and to them I hold myself responsible. I am to

thank the ministry of the late king for their support, I have served my country with fidelity and some success; but I will not be answerable for the conduct of the war any longer than I retain the direction of it."

Being cramped in his energies by the growing influence of the earl of Bute, perhaps too proud to brook controul, certainly too honest to change his principles, and disdaining to be only the nominal head of a cabinet over which he had presided with honour to himself and advantage to his country, he resigned his places; and a few months more justified the wisdom of the measure which he had recommended, when it was too late to retrieve the error that had occasioned its rejection. Whether with a design to lessen his popularity, or intended as a testimony of gratitude for his eminent and meritorious services, he was offered and he accepted a pension for three lives, and the title of a baroness for his lady.

A fallen minister is frequently insulted, and at best soon forgotten; but William Pitt carried the confidence and respect of the nation with him into his retirement, and received very flattering testimonies of approbation from the most respectable individuals and bodies-politic. The impetus which he had given to the machine of state, was felt for some time, after he had withdrawn from its direction; and the illustrious commanders who had risen under his auspices, did not suffer the national glory to be depressed. New victories were gained; and in the prosperity of the empire, the people consoled themselves for the loss of a favourite minister.

At last the preliminaries of peace were submitted to parliament: and Mr. Pitt, though labouring under a severe fit of the gout, attended the house, and spoke for three hours in the debate; giving the most unanswerable reasons for his opposition to the terms of the treaty, as being inadequate to our conquests and the expenditure of public money which they had cost. The love of peace, however, is natural to man; he sighs for it amidst the most successful war. The definitive treaty was therefore

ratified : but the ministry who had concluded it, felt themselves unable to maintain their ground in the public opinion ; and a spirit of opposition began to appear against the general measures of government, and to distract the public mind. Mr. Pitt, however, observed a dignified moderation. His opposition was neither petulant nor indiscriminating ; and he appeared before the public only when occasions presented themselves worthy of his powers. When the important question of general warrants was discussed, his love of rational liberty broke forth in strains, to which Tully or Demosthenes would have listened with eager satisfaction. He declared them repugnant to every principle of freedom. Were they tolerated, he said, the most innocent could not be secure. “ By the British constitution,” continued he, “ every man’s house is his castle : not that it is surrounded by walls and battlements — it may be a straw-built shed ; — every wind of heaven may whistle round it ; — all the elements may enter it ; — but the king cannot, the king dare not.”

When those impolitic measures had been proposed, which unfortunately terminated in the separation of America, Mr. Pitt strenuously opposed them in the senate ; and exerted his wonderful powers to heal the wound that had been given, by promoting the repeal of the stamp-act. This was carried ; and a new ministry having been formed, Mr. Pitt was made lord-privy-seal, and created earl of Chatham. A short time before, sir William Pynsent, of Burton Pynsent, in Somersetshire, a man of considerable property, without any very near relations, made Mr. Pitt his heir. To this he was actuated solely by an enthusiastic admiration of Mr. Pitt’s public character ; and it is unnecessary to adduce any other proof of the singular estimation in which he was held, than that he received greater remunerations for his services from private zeal, than from the emoluments of public office.

Whatever accession of honour a peerage gave him, *the great commoner* (as he used emphatically to be called)

was now rather obscured, in dividing his honours with others. In the house of commons he stood unrivalled and alone; but in the house of lords, he had less opportunity for exerting his talents; and, for a time at least, he lost in popularity what he gained in rank. In two years he resigned the office of lord-privy-seal: and being now sixty years of age, and debilitated by frequent attacks of the gout, he courted retirement; and abandoned all ambition of ever more taking an active part in administration.

Nevertheless, when the commotions broke out in America, he gave a decided opposition to the fatal measures which the ministry were pursuing: but when he found them lulled into security, or infatuated by folly to persevere, till repeated defeats and disgraces at last opened their eyes; when he saw France interfere in the contest, and the independence of America about to be recognised by the weak and deluded administration that had hitherto contended for her unconditional submission; he summoned up all his energy; and poured forth his eloquence against a measure so inglorious, and so fraught with ruin in its consequences to his country and to mankind.

The duke of Richmond replied, and combated his arguments. The mind of lord Chatham seemed labouring with a desire to give vent to the further dictates of his soul, on this momentous subject. He attempted to rise as his grace sat down; but his emotions proved too strong for his debilitated frame. He suddenly pressed his hand on his stomach, and fell into convulsions. The house was shocked by this melancholy circumstance, and every one anxiously strove to procure relief. But his scene of mortal existence was about to close for ever. This was the last public effort of this immortal senator, patriot, and minister; and he might be said to breathe his last in the service of his country. He died in about a month after; and the enthusiastic respect which was paid to his memory, showed how deservedly ~~de~~ he

was to the public, and how sensible every true Briton was of his loss. A public funeral was voted him by parliament, and a monument in Westminster-abbey, with a liberal pension to his heirs, to whom the title should descend.

All ranks were zealous to testify their sincere regret and admiration ; and he is still universally allowed to have been as profound a politician, as able a senator, and as upright a minister, as this country ever produced.

Sagacity, promptitude, and energy, were the predominating features of lord Chatham's character. His ruling passion was a love of glory, but it was of an honourable and virtuous kind ; he practised no meanness to obtain it, and his private life was unsullied by any vice. He was conscious of his virtues and talents, and therefore appeared impatient of contradiction in public affairs : but in society he could unbend to all companies ; and possessed such a fund of intelligence, and versatility of wit, that he could adapt himself to all circumstances and occasions.

In the higher paths of oratory he had no competitor, and stood alone the rival of antiquity. His eloquence was of every kind ; and he excelled in argument as well as declamation. But his invectives were terrible ; and uttered with such energy of diction, and such dignity of action and countenance, that he intimidated those who were the most willing and the best able to encounter him. Their arms fell from their hands, and they shrunk under the ascendant which his genius had gained over theirs. The fluent Murray (afterwards lord Mansfield) has faltered ; and Fox (the first lord Holland) shrunk back appalled, from an adversary fraught with fire unquenchable.

He could adapt himself to every topic ; but dignity was the character of his oratory, and his personal greatness gave weight to the style he assumed. His assertions rose into proof, his foresight became prophecy. No clue was necessary to the labyrinth illumined by his genius. Truth

me forth at his bidding ; and realised the wish of the philosopher ; she was seen and beloved.

Such are the panegyrics paid to this great man's intellectual and expressive powers, by some who were witnesses of their effects, and judges of their merits.

On a character so highly respected, and endeared to Englishmen, it would be pleasing to enlarge ; but nothing can be here added to what has been advanced in his commendation by the ablest writers ; and silent admiration on such a favourite subject is perhaps the most extensive praise.

DAVID GARRICK.

Born 1719. — Died 1779.

From 5th George I. to 19th George III.

THE grace of action, the adapted mien,
Faithful as nature to the varied scene,
Th' expressive glance, whose subtle comment draws
Entranc'd attention, and a mute applause ;
Gesture that marks, with force and feeling fraught,
A sense in silence, and a will in thought ;
Harmonious speech, whose pure and liquid tone
Gives verse a music scarce confess'd its own
(As light from gems assumes a brighter ray,
And, cloth'd with orient hues, transcends the day ;)
Passion's wild break, and frown that awes the sense,
And every charm of gentler eloquence ;
All perishable, like th' electric fire,
But strike the frame, and as they strike expire :
Incense too choice a bodied flame to bear ;
Its fragrance charms the sense, and blends with air.

MONODY to the Memory of GARRICK.

the poet lives in his lays, and the painter on his canvass.
the imitative arts, except the scenic, leave some

memorials to illustrate the fame of proficients : but the transient beauties of dramatic acting have no permanent " local habitation ;" they blaze and expire in an instant. The spectator can scarcely fix them in his memory ; and posterity can form no idea of them, except from the effects which they are recorded to have produced. The candidates for theatric fame are nevertheless numerous ; as it frequently happens that specious talents are more encouraged than real ; and because the clap of applause is more gratifying to many minds than the lasting plaudits of the world, which perhaps are not paid on this side the grave. Yet surely this consideration ought to have much weight with the young and inexperienced, to prove that a mediocrity of scenic excellence will never gain either praise or reward ; and that the highest attainments in that art are as perishable as the frame that produces them. Even Garrick, who reached the summit of his profession, could not embody his excellences ; and no description of the voice or pen can now do them justice.

This great actor was descended from a French family, which the revocation of the edict of Nantz had forced to take refuge here. His father obtained a captain's commission in the British army ; and generally resided at Lichfield. David, however, was born at Hereford, and seems to have received the early part of his education there ; but at ten years of age was removed to the grammar-school of Lichfield. His proficiency in learning was not great, because his application was not so. He possessed a vivacity of temper which disqualified him for attention to books ; and the love of theatric representation seems to have been a part of his very constitution. In his eleventh year, he formed the project of getting up the Recruiting Officer ; and having previously trained his youthful associates, they performed in a barn with general applause. The young hero of the stage particularly distinguished himself in the character of Serjeant Kite, and the plaudits which he received on this occasion

served to fan the predominant passion of his breast ; which however was not suffered to burst into a flame, till it had acquired strength to support a steady blaze. : Soon after, on the invitation of an uncle, who was engaged in the wine-trade at Lisbon, young Garrick visited that city ; but his taste was totally incompatible with the pursuits of commerce, and his frolicsome vivacity did not comport with the grave formality of the old gentleman. In consequence they soon parted, yet not before Garrick had made himself agreeable to the gay part of the English factory by his turn for sportiveness and mimicry ; which are pleasing in the boy, though often dangerous to the future man.

Returning to Lichfield, he was placed for a short time under his illustrious townsman Samuel (afterwards Dr.) Johnson : but the master, however well qualified to instruct, had no great partiality for his profession ; and Garrick was as little disposed to learn. Both being soon weary of their situations, in 1787 they set out together to try their fortunes in the metropolis ; Garrick being then about eighteen years of age.

Soon after his arrival in London, he entered himself of the Temple, with a design apparently to study the law as a profession ; but being now sensible of his little improvement in learning, and feeling the necessity of bestowing a more attentive application, he put himself under the instruction of Mr. Colson, an eminent mathematician at Rochester, and for some time pursued his studies with diligence and success. It was not long, however, before his uncle died, and left him a legacy of a thousand pounds. Being unsettled in his mind, and desultory in his pursuits, because his filial affection kept him from indulging his fixed and unconquerable propensity to the stage, he entered soon after into partnership with his brother Peter, a wine-merchant in London. This union was also of short duration. The tempers and habits of the two brothers were entirely opposite ; and to avoid

the unpleasantness of daily altercation, they parted by mutual consent.

In this interval his mother had died ; and being now freed from a restraint which his duty had imposed on him, he gave a loose to his darling passion for the stage, and associated chiefly with those from whom he could derive dramatic improvement or pleasure. In the company of the most celebrated actors he tried his powers ; and frequented the theatre, as a school where he was to learn the principles of his art.

Garrick, however, though enthusiastic in his pursuit, was not one of those inconsiderate votaries for dramatic fame, who risk success by crude and untimely attempts. He formed a proper estimate of his native powers, and did not expose them before they gained maturity. He considered it too hazardous to make his beginning on a London stage ; and therefore passed his noviciate at Ipswich, in the summer of 1741. The first character in which he appeared, was that of Aboan, in the tragedy of Oroonoko, under the assumed name of Lyddal ; and the applause which he gained did credit to the taste of his provincial judges. In quick succession he performed several capital parts, both in tragedy and comedy ; and even to excel in the feats of Harlequin was not below his ambition. In every character, and in every attempt, he met with the loudest applause ; and having now gained confidence by success, he appeared the next winter on the stage at Goodman's-fields. The first character which he represented to a London audience, was that of Richard the Third ; and the most eminent judges of dramatic excellence in the great world, confirmed the decisions of his previous country audiences. In a short time, Drury-Lane and Covent-Garden theatres were almost deserted. It was unfashionable not to see Garrick ; and as unfashionable not to admire him. He was universally acknowledged to be a rising prodigy on the stage ; and alone, but in vain, did the interested part of his profession endeavour to depreciate his worth. Quin could not con-

ceal his vexation : and being told of his unbounded success, he observed, " that Garrick's was a new religion ; Whitfield was followed for a time, but people would soon return to church again." This being reported to the young actor, he wrote the following epigram :

Pope Quin, who damns all churches but his own,
Complains that heresy corrupts the town ;
That Whitfield-Garrick has misled the age,
And taints the sound religion of the stage.
" Schism," he cries, " has turn'd the nation's brain ;
But eyes will open, and to church again !"
Thou great Infallible, forbear to roar ;
Thy bulls and errors are rever'd no more.
When doctrines meet with general approbation,
It is not *heresy*, but *reformation*.

But if Garrick was a match for his jealous opponents at the pen, he found himself inferior in influence. Having been admitted to a half of the profits at Goodman's-fields, the patentees of the other theatres saw that they must subvert his empire to preserve their own. An act of parliament was obtained to confine dramatic exhibitions to Drury-Lane and Covent-Garden ; and Garrick entered into an agreement with the managers of the former, on the salary of five hundred pounds a year. He had previously made himself known as a dramatic writer, by his ' Lying Valet,' and ' Lethe : ' and now he began to obtain the appellation of *the English Roscius* ; and to be courted by the elegant, and patronised by the great.

In consequence of his renown, Ireland expressed a desire to witness his powers ; and having obtained very lucrative terms, he performed in Dublin during the summer of 1742, with such uncommon celebrity, and to such crowded houses, that an epidemical fever broke out, which went by the name of " Garrick's disorder." His reception in that hospitable country was the most flattering that any actor ever experienced, either before or since.

In the winter, he resumed his station at Drury-lane, and was now irrevocably fixed in the theatrical profession. His name in a play-bill operated like a charm : he never appeared without attracting full houses : and his fame being now completely established, he continued for a long series of years the admiration of the public, and the idol of his friends ; among whom he could enumerate the most distinguished in rank, consequence, and talents.

His services were found so essential to the support of the theatre, that in the year 1747 he became a joint patentee of Drury-lane. In this capacity he exerted himself to introduce order, decency, and decorum ; and his own example co-operated to give success to his endeavours. He even rendered his profession more respectable than it had been before ; not only by his superior accomplishments, but by his moral conduct.

In two years after he became a manager, he married mademoiselle Violette ; a young lady of great personal beauty and elegant qualities, who proved a most affectionate partner. He was now easy in his circumstances, happy in his connections, admired wherever he was known, and blazoned by fame over Europe ; and after some years of assiduous application he determined to visit the continent, both with a view to the improvement of his health, and the extension of his knowledge. Accordingly in 1763 he set out on his travels ; and was every where received with a respect due to his extraordinary talents as an actor, which he readily exhibited when properly requested. Indeed vanity seems to have been a predominant part of his character ; and he received the incense of applause with as much rapture, as if he had not been accustomed to enjoy it. His company was eagerly desired by the great and the learned in France and Italy ; and to entertain them he would go through the whole circle of theatric exertions, with a rapidity unexampled, and an impressive force that nothing could resist. Without the least preparation, he could assume any character, and seize on any passion. He passed in an instant from

the deepest tragedy to the extremes of comic levity ; and agitated every spectator with the feeling which he meant to inspire.

He repeated the soliloquy from Macbeth before the duke of Parma ; and had several friendly contests with the celebrated mademoiselle Clairon at Paris, for the entertainment of their mutual friends. But Garrick was not satisfied with the fame which he justly received for animated and correct expression of the passions from plays only ; he convinced his friends, that even in dumb show he could melt the heart. Having been an eye-witness of an unhappy father in France, fondling his child at an open window, when it sprung from his arms, and was dashed to pieces in the street, he recited this affecting incident ; and threw himself into the distracted attitude of the parent at the instant when his darling appeared irrecoverably lost, with such natural expression of unutterable woe, that he filled every breast with sympathetic horror, and drew forth a shower of tears. Even Clairon was so much affected and charmed, that when she had a little recovered, by an involuntary impulse of applause, she caught Garrick in her arms and kissed him.

After spending about a year and a half on the continent, our great Roscius returned to his native land ; and having derived much of his reputation from exhibiting the impassioned scenes of Shakspeare, in honour of that immortal author, he projected a jubilee at Stratford, which drew together such a concourse of polite spectators as was scarcely ever known before. On this occasion, the first actor paid the homage of respect to the first dramatic writer that Britain ever produced.

In 1773 Garrick became sole manager of Drury-lane : but age now creeping on, and the gout and stone frequently afflicting him, he sold his share of the patent three years after, and bade a final adieu to the stage. The two or three weeks before he retired, he went through some of his principal characters with undiminished spirit, and confirmed the reputation he had gained. The last part which

he performed was *Felix*, in the comedy of the *Wonder*. When the play was ended, he stepped forward under extreme emotion; and after a short struggle, addressed the audience in such pathetic terms as drew tears from every eye, as well as his own. "This," said he, "is to me a very awful moment: it is no less than parting for ever with those from whom I have received the greatest kindness and favours, and upon the spot where that kindness and those favours were enjoyed." Having concluded his parting harangue, in which every heart sympathised, he made a profound bow, the curtain dropped; and he retired amidst the regret and acclamations of the most brilliant audience, that had ever been collected in an English theatre.

During the Christmas holidays of 1778, being on a visit with Mrs. Garrick at the country seat of earl Spencer, he was seized with a disorder, from which having partially recovered, he returned to his house in the *Adelphi*: but next day the attack returned, and the arts of medicine proving ineffectual to relieve him, a stupor came on, and increased till the moment of his dissolution; which happened four days after, without a groan. Many of the faculty attended him with affectionate assiduity.

A monument is erected to his memory in Westminster-abbey, under which is the following epitaph:

To paint fair Nature, by Divine command,
 — Her magic pencil in his glowing hand, —
 A Shakspeare rose: — then, to expand his fame
 Wide o'er this "breathing world," a Garrick came.
 Though sunk in death the forms the poet drew.
 The actor's genius bade them breathe anew;
 Though, like the bard himself, in night they lay,
 Immortal Garrick call'd them back to day;
 And, till Eternity, with power sublime,
 Shall mark the mortal hour of hoary Time;
 Shakspeare and Garrick, like twin stars shall shine,
 And earth irradiate with a beam divine.

S. J. PRATT.

Considered as a dramatic writer, his fame is only subordinate. His compositions of every kind are rather the temporary effusions of an elegant playful mind, than finished productions. But universal excellence is not the lot of man: he reached its summit as an actor; and, what is more to his credit, he performed with respectability his part in private life. He was greedy of money and of praise; of the former, however, he made a charitable use, and the latter was justly due to his supereminent abilities. Courted and flattered as he was, he must have been somewhat more than man to be absolutely devoid of vanity. It has been said of Garrick, "that he was only natural on the stage;" yet his private friends loved him well, and have paid many honourable testimonies to his social worth.

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK.

Born 1728. — Killed 1779.

From 1st George II. to 19th George III.

For the present reign was reserved the glory of carrying the spirit of maritime enterprise to its utmost extent, and of directing it to its noblest ends; the enlargement of science, and the civilisation of mankind: nor can the patriotic sovereign who patronised these designs be ever viewed in this honourable light, without reflecting a lustre on the able servant who executed them. Distinguished as this country is for its illustrious navigators, it derives no small part of its fame from producing such a man as Cook; who by dint of persevering diligence, and the exercise of useful talents, burst through the impediments of original indigence and obscurity, gained the palm of deserved celebrity, and now ranks high among the benefactors of mankind.

This respectable and beloved commander was born at Marton in Cleveland, about four miles from Great Ayton in Yorkshire. His father, who lived in the humble capacity of a farmer's servant, married a woman in the same sphere of life with himself. Both were noted for honesty, sobriety, and industry; qualities which are estimable in even the lowest station; and when our navigator was very young, his father's good character procured him the place of a bailiff to a gentleman at Great Ayton, whither the family removed. The son followed the same servile employment, as much as his tender years would permit; and thus laid the foundation of that hardness of constitution, which enabled him to fulfil his future destiny.

The early education of Cook seems to have been very slender; however, it was not wholly neglected. At the age of thirteen, he was placed under the care of a writing master, with whom he learned the rudiments of arithmetic and book-keeping; and is said to have shown a remarkable facility in acquiring the science of numbers.

Having reached his seventeenth year, his father bound him apprentice to a grocer at Staith, a considerable fishing town. But as he evinced a strong partiality for a maritime life (for which his predilection was probably confirmed by the situation of the place, and the prevailing taste of its inhabitants), after eighteen months of servitude, he obtained a release from his engagements, and determined to follow the bent of his genius.

Accordingly, in 1746, he became an apprentice for three years to some gentlemen of Whitby, who were engaged chiefly in the coal-trade; and served the full term to their entire satisfaction. After performing some voyages to the Baltic in the capacity of a common sailor, his masters, who had penetration enough to discover his talents and worth, appointed him mate to one of their ships, and after some time made him an offer of the place of captain; which, fortunately for his country, he declined.

■ *On the commencement of hostilities between Great*

Britain and France in 1775, Cook, who then lay in the river Thames, finding that press-warrants were issued, felt a spirit that disdained to *be compelled* to serve his king, and he adopted the resolution of entering as a volunteer in the royal navy; "having a mind," as he expressed himself, "to try his fortune in that way."

The first ship in which he served was the *Eagle*; and captain (afterwards sir Hugh) Palliser, being appointed to its command, soon remarked the diligence and attention of Cook, and granted him every encouragement, compatible with his humble station. His friends and connections in his native country, likewise, finding his conduct deserving their patronage, generously interfered in his behalf; and by the assistance of Mr. Osbaldeston, member for Scarborough, and the warm encomiums of his captain, at last procured him a master's warrant in the *Mercury*; in which ship he sailed, under sir Charles Saunders, to assist in the reduction of Quebec.

His professional merit, skill, and intrepidity, were now sufficiently known; and he was appointed to take the soundings of the river St. Lawrence, directly opposite to the French camp; a service as hazardous as important, but which he performed to the entire satisfaction of his employers.

There is no reason to believe that before this period Cook had used a pencil, or was acquainted with the principles of drawing; but such were the vigour of his mind, and his aptitude for the acquisition of knowledge, that he speedily mastered every object to which he applied. Under every disadvantage, he furnished the admiral with a complete draught of the channel and its soundings; and at once established his reputation as a surveyor.

After the conquest of Canada, so honourable to every person who bore a part in it, he was appointed master of the Northumberland, under lord Colville, on the Nova Scotia station; where he ingratiated himself with his *noble commander* in a high degree. Being sensible that

he was now in the road to promotion, he redoubled his ardour to qualify himself for adorning any station to which he might be raised. He devoted his leisure hours to the study of such branches of knowledge as add utility to, or reflect a lustre on, naval life. He read Euclid's Elements, and studied astronomy; and by application and perseverance, overcame every obstacle of situation, and made a progress which a man of less genius could never have attained, even under much superior advantages.

In April, 1760, he received a lieutenant's commission, and daily advanced in the career of glory. Stimulated by the success that had attended his past labours, and animated by the hopes of future promotion, he diligently applied himself to acquire a knowledge of the North American coast, and to facilitate its navigation. His abilities as an accurate draughtsman were now so well known, that he was employed by different commanders to make charts and surveys; and the unanimous voice of the best judges confirms his merit in this respect.

Towards the close of 1762, he returned to England and married a young lady of the name of Batts, whom he tenderly loved; and who had every claim to his warmest affection and esteem. His situation in life, however, and the high and important services to which he was called, did not suffer him to partake long together of domestic enjoyments; for he was variously engaged in North America and the West Indies, during some of the subsequent years.

That he had made a considerable proficiency in practical astronomy before 1766, is evident from his observation of an eclipse of the sun at the island of Newfoundland, taken that year, with the longitude deduced from it, which was published in the Philosophical Transactions; and he now acquired reputation for his scientific, as he had formerly for his professional skill.

But we have now come to a period of his life which requires little illustration; his services are well known to **Europe** and the world, and can here be only summed up

in a very cursory manner. The history of his voyages will be read and remembered as long as curiosity is an active principle of the human mind. Having thus seen the progressive steps by which this great nautical character rose, it cannot fail to be consolatory to those who, like him, aspire by merit to distinction, to know that the path is still open; and that honour and fame await the brave, the enterprising, and the meritorious.

The Royal Society having resolved that it would be beneficial to science to send proper persons into the South Seas, to observe the expected transit of Venus over the sun's disk, lieutenant Cook, whose abilities as an astronomer were now well known, was not only appointed to the command of a vessel fitted out by government for this purpose, but also constituted joint-astronomer with Mr. Charles Green. The present sir Joseph Banks also volunteered his services on this occasion; and Dr. Solander, a disciple of Linnæus, added to the scientific attendants of the voyage. Cook, with the rank of captain, sailed down the river Thames on the 30th of July, 1768, on an expedition the most honourable to his country. Seldom have distant regions been explored by authority, unless for the purposes of avarice or ambition; but on this occasion the desire of knowledge was the grand incitement to adventure. In the course of the voyage, captain Cook visited the Society islands; determined the insularity of New Zealand; sailed through the straits which separate two islands, now called after his name; and made a complete survey of both. He afterwards explored the eastern coast of New Holland, hitherto unknown; and thus added an extent of more than two thousand miles to our geographical knowledge of the globe. In this voyage, which lasted nearly three years, captain Cook, besides effecting the immediate object of his mission, made discoveries equal in number and importance to all the navigators of his own or any other country collectively, from the time of Columbus to the present.

Soon after his return, it was determined to equip two ships to complete the discovery of the southern hemisphere. It had long been a prevailing idea among geographers, that the unexplored part contained another continent; and captain Cook was employed to ascertain this important point. Accordingly he sailed from Deptford in the Resolution, accompanied by the Adventure, on the 9th of April, 1772, and effectually resolved the question of a southern continent: having traversed that hemisphere in such a manner as not to leave a possibility of its existence; unless near the pole, and out of the reach of navigation. During this expedition he discovered New Caledonia, one of the largest islands in the South Pacific Ocean; the island of South Georgia; and Sandwich-land, the farthest point of the Southern hemisphere: and having twice visited the tropical seas, he settled the positions of some places, and made several fresh discoveries.

So many services performed by one man, might have been an honourable acquittance from further toils, and his country considered it in this light; but captain Cook, animated by the love of true glory, wished to complete the geography of the globe; and having been consulted respecting the appointment of a proper officer to conduct a voyage of further discovery, to determine the practicability of a north-west passage to India, he immediately offered his own services, which were accepted, with all possible gratitude and acknowledgment.

On this his third and unhappily last voyage, he sailed in July, 1776; and besides several islands in the Southern Pacific, he discovered, to the north of the equinoctial line, the group called the Sandwich islands; which, from their situation and products, bid fair to become an object of some little consequence, in the system of European navigation and commerce. After this he proceeded on the grand object of his expedition, and explored what had *hitherto* remained unknown of the western coast of America, containing an extent of three thousand five hundred

miles; ascertained the proximity of the two great continents of Asia and America; passed the straits that divide them; and surveyed the coast on each side to such a height of northern latitude, as fully demonstrated the impracticability of a passage, in that hemisphere, from the Atlantic into the Pacific Ocean, either by an eastern or western course.

After having achieved so much, it is painful to reflect that he did not live to enjoy the honours which would have been paid to his successful and meritorious labours. On his return, he was unfortunately cut off, in an affray with the natives of Owhyhee, one of the Sandwich islands; which were thus part of the fruits of his discoveries, and the scene of his melancholy death. The loss of this estimable man was sincerely lamented, not only by Britain, but by every nation which loved science, or was capable of appreciating useful talents and services. The most honourable eulogies have been paid to his memory, by some whose slightest praise is fame: but no panegyric can exceed his deserts, nor are monuments necessary to perpetuate his remembrance: those which he erected himself will be eternal.

His character is thus drawn by his amiable coadjutor, captain King; "The constitution of his body was robust, inured to labour, and capable of undergoing the severest hardships. His stomach bore without difficulty the coarsest and most ungrateful food. Indeed temperance in him was scarcely a virtue, so great was the indifference with which he submitted to any kind of self-denial. The qualities of his mind were of the same hardy vigorous kind with those of his body. His courage was cool and determined, and accompanied with an admirable presence of mind in the moment of danger. His manners were plain and unaffected. His temper might perhaps have been justly blamed as to hastiness and passion, had not these been disarmed by a disposition the most benevolent and humane. But the distinguishing feature of his character was unremitting perseverance in the pursuit of his

object; which was not only superior to the opposition of dangers, and the pressure of hardships, but even exempt from the want of ordinary relaxation."

As a commander, his benevolent attention to the health of his men, and the success which attended it, form a distinguished part of his praise. By the judicious methods he pursued, he has shown the world that the longest voyages, through every climate, may be performed with as little risk of life from natural causes, as under our native sky, and surrounded with every comfort. He has proved that the scurvy, which has so frequently been the pest of nautical expeditions, may be avoided, or its ravages repelled. For his easy and practicable means of securing the health of seamen, which he communicated to the Royal Society, the gold medal was voted to him, with an appropriate speech by the president; after his departure on his last voyage. This testimony of gratitude never reached his ears; but for the services which obtained it, his name will descend to future ages, among the friends and benefactors of mankind.

SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE,

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

Born 1723.— Died 1780.

From 9th George I. to 20th George III.

To be able to produce flowers in a path confessedly rugged, to render the driest subject not only instructive but inviting, implies no small share of genius and talents; and this was reserved for sir William Blackstone to perform. Before his time, jurisprudence was studied only as qualifying for a profession; but his labours rendered it a classical pursuit. The illustrious Bacon had the glory

Stowe



Blackstone

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Cooke



Addison



Anson



Howard



Johnson

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to bring down philosophy to the level of common understandings, and to render it captivating; and Blackstone made the legal polity of his country amiable and popular, by the neatness and elegance with which he clothed it.

This accomplished lawyer was a native of London, and was born in Cheapside. His father was a very respectable citizen, but died before the birth of this his fourth son: his mother was of a genteel family in Wiltshire, but she too departed this life, before he could be duly sensible of his loss. The care of his education therefore devolved on an uncle, who placed him early at the Charter-house; and he was afterwards admitted on that excellent and liberal foundation. In this seminary, he pursued his classical studies with uncommon assiduity and success; and gave indications of those talents and that industry which shone in his future life. When only fifteen years of age, he was found properly qualified to be removed to the university; and accordingly was entered a commoner of Pembroke college, Oxford. But being at the head of the school, and deservedly favoured by his master, he was permitted to continue some months longer a scholar at the Charter-house, that he might have the honour and emolument of speaking the usual oration, on the anniversary commemoration of the founder. About the same time, he obtained Mr. Benson's gold medal for verses on Milton; and was considered by all who knew him as a very promising genius.

Pursuing his academical studies with unremitted ardour, he soon became as much admired at the university as he had been at school. The Greek and Latin poets were his favourites; but they did not engross all his attention. Logic, mathematics, and other sciences, were cultivated by the young student with diligence and alacrity; and possessing a mind formed for acute investigation, and a taste for extracting the sweets of every subject which he studied, he converted the most dry into an amusement, and the most abstruse he stripped of its veil and its asperity. He evinced a particular passion for

architecture; and when no more than twenty years of age, drew up the elements of that science for his own use only: but this was considered as only a presage of his future celebrity.

Hitherto, however, he had been studying merely for ornament, or for private gratification. It was now requisite to determine on some profession in life, in which he might render his talents subservient to his advancement. Accordingly he quitted the flowery paths of polite literature, in which he had strayed with the highest intellectual delight; and devoting himself to the study of the law, entered himself of the Middle Temple in November, 1741. On this occasion he wrote a very beautiful ode, entitled the *Lawyer's Farewell to his Muse*, from which the following extract is taken:

Shakspeare no more, thy sylvan son,
Nor all the art of Addison,
Pope's heaven-strung lyre, nor Waller's ease,
Nor Milton's mighty self, must please.
Instead of these a formal band
In furs and coifs around me stand:
With sounds uncouth, and accents dry,
That grate 'the soul of harmony.'
Each pedant sage unlocks his store
Of mystic, dark, discordant lore;
And points, with tottering hand, the ways
That lead me to the thorny maze.

There, in a winding close retreat,
Is JUSTICE doom'd to fix her seat;
There, fenc'd by bulwarks of the law,
She keeps the wond'ring world in awe;
And there from vulgar sight retir'd,
Like eastern queens, is more admir'd.

Oh! let me pierce the secret shade,
Where dwells the venerable maid:
There humbly mark, with rev'rent awe,
The guardian of Britannia's law;
Unfold with joy her sacred page,
Th' united boast of many an age,
Where mix'd yet uniform appears
The wisdom of a thousand years;

In that pure spring the bottom view,
Clear, deep, and regularly true,
And other doctrines thence imbibe
Than lurk within the sordid scribe ;
Observe how parts with parts unite
In one harmonious rule of right ;
See countless wheels distinctly tend
By various laws to one great end,
While mighty Alfred's piercing soul
Pervades and regulates the whole.

In 1744 Mr. Blackstone was elected a fellow of All-Souls, and from this period divided his time between the college and the Temple. To the former he performed some very essential services, and was entrusted with the management of its most valuable concerns.

In Michaelmas term, 1746, he was called to the bar ; but possessing neither a confident eloquence, nor a prompt delivery, he did not make any considerable figure there. However, with his abilities, a patron alone was wanting to secure his success. His real merits were only known to a few ; for though both solid and striking, they required to be set off by extrinsic circumstances. After attending the courts for seven years, and perhaps with as deep a knowledge of the laws of his country as any counsellor of his time, he found that with all his diligence and all his merit, he could not open the way to fame ; and having previously been elected recorder of Wallingford, and taken the degree of doctor of civil law, he resolved to retire to an academic life, and the limited practice of a provincial counsel. He is not the only great lawyer who has found the difficulty of rising to early distinction. In all the professions, a young adventurer requires some adventitious helps, some lucky incident to develope talents, or powerful friends to force them into notice.

It was fortunate, however, for his fame and for his country, that he gained the learned leisure which Oxford allowed him. Having for some years planned his lectures on the laws of England, he now began to execute this immortal work. In 1754, he published his *Analysis*.

which increased his fame as a legal scholar; and four years after, being elected Vinerian professor of the common law, he read his celebrated introductory lecture, which, to the purest elegance of diction, united the most recondite knowledge of English jurisprudence. Every succeeding lecture increased his reputation; and he became the deserved object of admiration among the legal students, and was considered as an ornament to the university.

Being now generally known as a man of talents, in 1759 he purchased chambers in the Temple, and made another effort at the bar. He continued, however, to read his lectures at Oxford with the highest distinction; and they became so much talked of, that it is said the governor of his present majesty, when prince of Wales, requested a copy of them for the use of his royal pupil. It is certain that Dr. Blackstone was now daily advancing in fortune and fame. In 1761 he was returned to parliament; and appointed king's counsel, after refusing the office of chief-justice of the court of common pleas in Ireland. The same year he married a daughter of James Clitheroe, esquire, of Boston-house, in Middlesex, by whom he left several children; and vacating his fellowship, the chancellor of the university appointed him principal of New Inn hall. The following year he was made solicitor-general to the queen, and was chosen a bencher of the Middle Temple. His celebrated Commentaries on the Laws of England began to be published in 1765, and were completed in the four succeeding years. The reputation which he gained by this work was unbounded; and in consequence it was minutely criticised by such as envied his fame, or disliked some principles which he had laid down. But the basis, and indeed the general execution, will be as durable as the British constitution, of which it treats: and let us add, may both be perpetual!

In May, 1770, Dr. Blackstone was knighted, and appointed a judge in the court of king's bench; and the

following month removed to the same station in the common pleas. Having now obtained the summit of his wishes, he resigned all his other appointments, and settled wholly in London. Though never distinguished as a very fluent speaker, he was justly esteemed an able and upright judge, and did honour to the bench. But he did not confine his talents entirely to his vocation: whenever his leisure permitted, he was employed in some plan of public utility; either enlarging the bounds of legal knowledge, or promoting the interest and welfare of society.

A life devoted to intense study, early brought upon him the infirmities of age. His constitution was broken by the gout and nervous complaints, the effect of sedentary pursuits. About Christmas, 1779, he was seized with an asthma, which was partially removed; but a stupor and drowsiness ensuing, he died about six weeks after, in the fifty-sixth year of his age, and was buried in the family-vault at St. Peter's, Wallingford.

As a lawyer, the character and abilities of sir William Blackstone must be estimated from his works; and his fame may be safely committed to the breasts of the impartial. Every Englishman is under obligations to him for the pains he has taken to make the laws of his country intelligible; and the philosopher will thank him, for rendering the study of them easy and engaging.

In private life he was truly amiable; beloved by his friends for the pleasantness of his manners, and endeared to his family by the suavity of his disposition. He was a remarkable economist of time; and as he disliked squandering away his own, so he was averse to waste that of others. In reading his lectures, it could not be remembered that he ever made his audience wait even a few minutes beyond the time appointed. No one could have been more rigid in observing the hour and minute of an appointment. Indeed punctuality, in his opinion, was so much a virtue, that he could not bring himself to think perfectly well of any one who was notoriously defective *in its practice*.

DOCTOR SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Born 1709. — Died 1784.*From 7th Anne to 24th George III.*

OF this luminary of the eighteenth century, who was confessedly at the head of general literature in a country where knowledge is very widely diffused, so much already has been written by friends and foes, by panegyrists and detractors, with such an amplitude of remark, and diligence of research, that the most industrious cannot glean a new anecdote, nor even throw an air of novelty on the hacknied theme. It will therefore be sufficient here to select some short biographical notices, and characteristic traits, of this profound writer, and truly good man : happy if the young can be thus lured to the study of his inestimable productions ; happier still, if they can be engaged to practise his virtues. For the life of Johnson was a perpetual comment on the precepts which he promulgated : in his writings we read the man, exposed to the most incurious eye. Dignified in his mind, he scorned to conceal his genuine sentiments, or to wrap them in the veil of mystery. He spoke and wrote from his own impressions alone, whether right or wrong ; he conceded nothing through complaisance, and palliated nothing through fear.

Lichfield had the high honour of producing this prodigy in the literary world. His father was a bookseller there : a profession formerly, and even now, accompanied by no mean talents, and which affords considerable facilities of cultivating them. Mr. Johnson seems to have been neither destitute of intelligence nor discernment ; but fortune did not smile upon his exertions, and he lost by scheming, what he gained by his regular trade. Either from his parents, or a nurse, young Johnson un-

happily derived a scrofulous taint, which disfigured his features, and affected the senses of hearing and seeing : and this it was perhaps which gave a melancholy cast to his mind, and even influenced his whole character. For this malady he was actually touched by queen Anne ; for, being of a jacobitical family, his parents had great faith in that superstitious practice.

After acquiring the rudiments of reading under an old school-mistress, and an English master, he was sent to the grammar-school at his native city ; and had for his associates, Dr. James the physician, Dr. Taylor rector of Ashbourne, and Mr. Hector surgeon in Birmingham, with whom he contracted a particular intimacy. At school he is said to have been averse to study, but possessed of such strength of genius as rendered his tasks easy without much application. Some of his exercises have accidentally been preserved, and justify the opinion of his father ; who thought that literature was the direction to which his talents were inclined, and resolved to encourage it, notwithstanding the narrowness of his own circumstances. To complete his classical studies he was afterwards removed to Stourbridge, where he acted in the double capacity of scholar and usher. His progress at the two grammar-schools he thus describes : " At the first I learnt much in the school, but little from the master ; at the last I learnt much from the master, but little in the school."

After passing two years at home in desultory study, he was entered as a commoner of Pembroke college ; and according to the testimony of Dr. Adams, his fellow-collegian, was the best qualified young man he had ever known admitted. He had not been long at the university, before he had an opportunity of displaying his poetical genius, in a Latin translation of Pope's Messiah ; which at once established his fame as a classical scholar, and procured him a compliment from the great author of that poem himself.

But amidst his growing reputation as a scholar, he felt

the penury of his circumstances insupportable. Humiliating as it must have been to a person of Johnson's independent and elevated mind, his finances did not even enable him to make a decent appearance in dress, much less to defray the expense of academical institution or elegant society. At last the insolvency of his father completed his distress; and he relinquished his prospects at the university, after a short and interrupted residence of three years.

Returning to Lichfield, he was for some time dependent on the hospitality of benevolent friends. At this period the morbid melancholy of his constitution, heightened by his forlorn circumstances, made him fancy that he was approaching to insanity, and he actually consulted a physician on this subject: who found that his imagination and spirits alone were affected, and that his judgment was sound and vigorous. From this habitual despondency he never was perfectly relieved; and all his amusements and his studies were only so many temporary alleviations of its influence.

Being without permanent protection or provision, he gladly accepted the offer of the place of usher at a school at Market Bosworth, immediately after his father's death; on which latter event, a sum of twenty pounds was the only inheritance which fell to his share. This situation he soon found intolerable, from the tyrannical behaviour of a patron, in whose house he lodged. His prospects were now worse than ever: and he was obliged to the friendship of Mr. Hector, his former companion, who was now settled at Birmingham, for a temporary refuge. At this place he commenced his career as an author, in the service of the editor of a newspaper; and here he published a translation of Lobo's Voyage to Abyssinia, for which he received five guineas. This first prosaic production of his pen contains none of that characteristic style which he afterwards formed, and which is peculiarly his own.

Johnson had been early sensible of the influence of

female charms; and after a transient passion for Miss Lucy Porter, paid his addresses to her mother, the widow of a mercer in Birmingham, which were accepted; and in 1735 she made him happy with her hand, and a portion of eight hundred pounds. The object of his choice was nearly double his own age, and not particularly amiable, either in person or manners: yet he says it was a love-match on both sides; and he entertained a sincere affection for her, which did not terminate with her life.

As he was now in a state of comparative independence, he attempted to establish a boarding-school at Edial, near Lichfield; but this scheme proved unsuccessful, for want of encouragement; and in 1737 he determined to try his fortune in London, the grand mart of genius and industry, and where talents of every kind have the amplest scope.

Accordingly he set out, in company with Garrick; who had been his pupil, and now became his fellow-adventurer. That two men who afterwards rose to such celebrity, should be thus launched into life at the same time, and not only as townsmen but as friends, is a singular circumstance. The prospects of Johnson were certainly the most uninviting; he had been already broken by disappointments, and besides was a married man. The gay fancies of hope danced before the other, and his fine flow of spirits enabled him to view with unconcern what would have overwhelmed his companion.

How Johnson at first employed his talents, is not well known: he had been however in previous correspondence with Mr. Cave, the proprietor of the Gentleman's Magazine; and for some years after he settled in the metropolis, he derived his principal support from the part he took in that publication. After a few months' trial, in which he might possibly feel his strength, and enlarge his connections, he returned to Lichfield for a short time; and having now finished his tragedy of Irene, which had long employed his attention, he finally settled.

in London with his wife, who had hitherto been left in the country.

The poor pittance that can be allowed to a mere contributor to a periodical work, however respectable, cannot be supposed adequate to supply the wants of an individual, much less those of a family. Johnson laboured under the utmost pecuniary distress; and meeting with Savage, a man of genius and equally unfortunate, their common misery endeared them to each other. He offered his tragedy to the stage, but it was rejected; and even his exquisite poem entitled "London," imitated from Juvenal, with difficulty he could get accepted for publication. No sooner, however, was it read than admired: and if it was not a source of great emolument, it certainly made Johnson known as an author by profession; and facilitated the acceptance of other performances which, in the sequel, he sent into the world.

Still his mind revolted at the idea of a precarious dependence on the profits of authorship; and he endeavoured, but in vain, to obtain the mastership of the grammar-school of Appleby, in Leicestershire. Pope himself, unknown and unsolicited, wished to serve him in this affair; but he could not succeed, and the business was dropped. He then made an attempt to be admitted at Doctor's Commons, but here too he failed; and being thus frustrated in every endeavour at meliorating his situation, he began to acquiesce in the drudgery of authorship; and seems to have adopted the resolution of attempting to write himself into notice, by an attack upon government. His *Marmor Norfolcense*, or "Norfolk Marble," was published to vent his spleen against the Brunswick succession, and the adherents and ministers of that illustrious family. It gratified his own political prejudices, and gained him the favour of men of similar principles; but exposed him to the danger of a prosecution.

Passing over that checkered scene of his life in which

he may be described as a stipendiary of Cave, we come to a period when he soared to a higher flight in literature; and fully confident of his own powers, which had gradually been developed and slowly rewarded, assumed the rank to which he had long been eminently entitled in the republic of letters.

In 1749 he engaged as a critic and commentator on Shakspeare; and published the plan of his great English Dictionary, addressed to lord Chesterfield in a strain of dignified compliment. The original hint of this great work is said to have been suggested by Dodsley; and that respectable literary character and bookseller, with several others of the profession, contracted for its execution, at the price of fifteen hundred guineas.

His friend Garrick, by his transcendant theatrical abilities, had now raised himself to the situation of joint patentee and manager of Drury-Lane theatre; and under his patronage, the long dormant tragedy of Irene was brought upon the stage. But the pompous phraseology and brilliant sentiments of Johnson were not sufficiently colloquial for the drama. He displayed more art than nature, more description than pathos; and consequently his tragedy was received but coolly by the public. The author, however, had sense enough to perceive that his talents did not lie in this direction: he acquiesced in the decision of the public; and ceased to waste his time and labour on a species of composition, for which nature had not adapted him.

During the time that he was engaged on his DICTIONARY, in order to relieve the tedium of uniform attention to one object, he brought out his RAMBLER; a work containing the purest morals and justest sentiments, and on which alone his reputation as a fine writer and a good man may safely be rested. At first, however, it was far from being popular; but Johnson persevered with a laudable fortitude, conscious of its merits; and he had afterwards the pleasure to see it run through

many editions, and even to be translated into foreign languages.

Soon after those excellent essays were closed, he lost his wife; an event which threw him into the greatest affliction. His friends in general, from her character and behaviour, were disposed to ridicule what in many would have been deemed a feigned sorrow: but Johnson felt all the poignancy of sincere grief, as is evident from his always commemorating the day of her death as a kind of religious fast.

His Dictionary was now about to appear; and lord Chesterfield, sensible of neglecting the person who had, in the first instance, claimed the honour of his patronage, paved the way for its favourable reception with the public, by two essays in the periodical paper, called *The World*, expressly devoted to its praise. His lordship, no doubt, expected that launching those two little cock-boats, as Johnson contemptuously termed them, to assist him when he was now in port, would obliterate the remembrance of past neglect, and procure him the immortal honour of a dedication. But the dignified lexicographer saw through the artifice; and in a keen letter rejected the advances of his lordship; and thereby afforded a noble lesson to ungracious patrons and insulted authors. After some expressions of general acknowledgment, this epistle ran in the following sarcastic strain: —

“Seven years, my lord, have now passed since I waited in your outward rooms, or was repulsed from your door; during which time I have been pushing on my work through difficulties of which it is useless to complain, and have brought it at last to the verge of publication, without one act of assistance, one word of encouragement, or one smile of favour. Such treatment I did not expect, for I never had a patron before.

“Is not a patron, my lord, one who looks with unconcern on a man struggling for his life in the water, and when he has reached ground, encumbers him with help?

The notice which you have been pleased to take of my labours, had it been early, would have been kind : but it has been delayed till I am indifferent, and cannot enjoy it ; till I am solitary, and cannot impart it ; till I am known, and do not want it. I hope therefore it is no very cynical asperity, not to confess obligations where no benefit has been received ; or to be unwilling that the public should consider me as owing that to a patron, which Providence has enabled me to do for myself."

This stupendous monument of labour, talents, and genius, was published in May, 1755 ; and his amiable friend Mr. Warton procured him the degree of master of arts to grace the title-page. Notwithstanding a few blunders, which Johnson had anticipated might exist, it was instantly received with gratitude and congratulation ; and though the labour of an individual, it was deservedly compared with the united efforts of the forty French academicians, who had produced a similar work. To this his friend Garrick alludes in a complimentary epigram which concludes with this couplet :

And Johnson well arm'd, like a hero of yore,
Has beat forty French, and will beat forty more.

But though he had now reared his fame on an adamantine basis, and was flattered by the great and listened to by the learned, he was not able to emerge from poverty and dependance. It is recorded that he was arrested for a debt of five guineas in the following year ; and obliged to his friend Mr. Samuel Richardson for his liberation. By the labours of his pen he was barely able to provide for the day that was passing over his head. His IDLER produced him a temporary supply ; and RASSELAS, which he composed with unexampled rapidity to discharge some debts left by his mother, who died in extreme old age, he sold for a hundred pounds.

At last, in 1762, royal munificence raised him above the drudgery of being an author by profession ; and fixed him in the enjoyment of learned ease, or only voluntary

labour. He received a pension of three hundred pounds a-year, as a reward for his past productions, which had been so honourable to his country, and useful to mankind.

For this patronage he was indebted to a family for whom he had shown no affection, and to the generous recommendation of two men, to whose country he had contracted a singular antipathy. The late lord Roslyn and lord Bute were the organs and the origin of his majesty's bounty. Against lord Bute, in particular, he had joined in the popular cry of indiscriminating invective; and thus "even-handed Justice" compelled him to an awkward, though not unpleasant penance, for indulging in a splenetic prejudice, equally unworthy of a scholar and a gentleman.

On becoming a pensioner, a word which he had endeavoured to render odious by the explanation he affixed to it in his Dictionary, he was exposed to the invective or the raillery of his literary opponents; but it must be allowed that a pension was never better bestowed, nor did his future conduct disgrace his former principles. On several subsequent occasions, indeed, he defended government, as a party writer; but it was only when the subject corresponded with his political principles, or when his natural and unbiassed sentiments of equity drew him into the contest.

Being now in possession of fame and a moderate independence, he gave full scope to the natural philanthropy of his heart, and extended his beneficence to the less favoured and the less fortunate. The circle of his acquaintances was enlarged; and he took peculiar delight in a literary club which he had contributed to establish, and which met weekly at the Turk's Head in Gerrard-street, Soho.

The year 1765 brought him several honours and advantages. The university of Dublin complimented him with the degree of doctor of laws; and he had the good fortune, about the same time, to contract an acquaintance *with the family* of Mr. Thrale, in which he afterwards

spent the happiest hours of his life. The same year he had an interview with his majesty, in the queen's library. The king asked him "if he intended to publish any more works?" Johnson modestly answered, "that he thought he had written enough." "And so should I too," replied the king, "if you had not written so well." No author ever received a juster compliment from royalty, and Dr. Johnson seems to have been duly sensible of it. But compliment now was the natural incense which he expected: and for many years before his death, he received from the world that unqualified praise, which is seldom paid before the grave. His fame was too well established in the public opinion to be shaken by obloquy, or shared by a rival; his company was universally courted; his peculiarities were overlooked or forgotten in the admiration of his superior talents; and his foibles were lost in the blaze of his virtues. His views expanding with his situation, it is said that he had the ambition even of procuring a seat in parliament; but in this he failed, and perhaps justly: for it is probable that he would have been too dogmatical in the senate, and too impatient of contradiction, to observe the decorum of debate.

In autumn 1773 he made a journey into Scotland, in company with his friend Mr. Boswell; and his observations in this excursion, which he published soon after, evinced great strength of mind, comprehensive knowledge of mankind, and no inconsiderable share of that prejudice which he had indulged against the Scotch till it had become habitual and almost involuntary. His remarks on Ossian involved him in an angry dispute with Mr. Macpherson, who even threatened him with corporal chastisement; and to whom in return he addressed a letter, in the warmest style of contemptuous superiority. "Any violence offered to me," said he indignantly, "I shall do my best to repel; and what I cannot do for myself, the law shall for me. I hope I shall never be deterred from detecting what I think a cheat, by the menaces of a ruffian."

The personal prowess of Johnson indeed had not been small. On a former occasion he knocked down Osborne the bookseller, who had been insolent to him; and he now provided himself with an oak plant which might have served for the rafter of a house, to protect himself from the expected fury of the translator of Ossian!

In the year 1775 he visited France, in company with Mr. and Mrs. Thrale. The people of that country were lost in astonishment at the contemplation of his figure, his manners, and his dress; which probably reminded them of an ancient cynic philosopher risen from his grave. The same year his own university conferred on him the degree of doctor of laws, by diploma, the highest honorary compliment which it can bestow.

In 1777 he undertook the *Lives of the English Poets*, which he completed in 1781. "Some time in March," says he in his *Meditations*, "I finished the *Lives of the Poets*: which I wrote in my usual way, dilatorily and hastily; unwilling to work, but working with vigour and haste." Though now upwards of seventy years of age yet in this last great work, which is a most correct specimen of literary biography, he betrays no decline of powers, no deficiency of spirit.

The palsy, asthma, and incipient dropsy, soon after began to show that he was verging to his dissolution. Though truly religious, though the Scriptures had been his study and the rule of his conduct, he contemplated his end with fear and apprehension; but when the last struggle approached, he summoned up the resolution of a Christian; and on the 13th of December, 1784, died full of hope, and strong in faith. His remains were interred in Westminster-abbey; and a monument has since been erected to his memory in St. Paul's cathedral, with an appropriate Latin inscription by the learned Dr. Parr. His collected works were published in eleven volumes, octavo, by his friend sir John Hawkins; and *another* and more perfect edition, in twelve volumes, by ~~the~~ late Mr. Murphy.

ROBERT LOWTH,
BISHOP OF LONDON.

Born 1710. — Died 1787.

From 8th Anne to 27th George III.

OFTEN has the mitre of London been placed on unsullied brows ; but seldom has it fallen to the lot of a man who united so rare an assemblage of all that was good in the Christian, and great in the scholar, as Robert Lowth.

This illustrious prelate was the son of William Lowth, prebendary of Winchester ; and was born in that city in the year 1710. His father was eminent as a scholar, but still more distinguished as a pious and worthy man ; so that the virtues and talents of his offspring might well be considered as hereditary, — only that a double portion of the father's spirit rested on the son.

At the celebrated seminary of Winchester, founded by William of Wykeham, he received his grammatical education ; and some time before he left school, he displayed his genius and taste by some beautiful compositions. His poem on the Genealogy of Christ, as painted on the window of Winchester-college chapel, first made him known in the train of the muses : and this was followed by another on Catherine-hill, the scene of youthful pastime to the Wykehamites : a subject which must have been endeared to Lowth by the recollection of many a happy hour spent there, devoid of ambition and of care.

His scholastic attainments, however, were not confined to poetry. Though, as the greatest and the best of men have frequently done, he employed it for the relief of severer studies, his attention was not diverted from those more serious pursuits, which are requisite to complete the character of the scholar. He not only acquired a critical knowledge of the Latin and Greek classics, but added an uncommon acquaintance with Oriental litera-

ture ; which, opening the treasures of sacred lore, attracted and fixed his attention on biblical criticism, in which he afterwards shone with unrivalled lustre.

From Winchester he removed to New-college, Oxford, and in due course obtained a fellowship upon that foundation ; which he vacated in the twenty-second year of his age, by marrying a lady of Christ-church in Hampshire.

Such an early engagement, interrupting the course of academic studies too soon, might have been fatal to the prospect of a man whose attainments were less mature, and whose manners were less calculated to attract admiration and gain patronage. To the highest literary accomplishments, he joined those amiable external graces which adorn the character of the gentleman : and the duke of Devonshire had the good sense to recognize and reward them, by appointing him tutor to his son the marquis of Hartington ; with whom he made the tour of Europe, and discharged the important function in such a manner as secured him the future protection of that noble family.

Having taken the degree of master of arts in 1737, he was appointed professor of Hebrew in the university of Oxford four years afterwards ; when he delivered his admirable lectures on the sacred poetry of the Hebrews, which place him in the first rank of eminence as a critic.

It was the good fortune of Lowth to obtain the patronage of Dr. Hoadley, bishop of Winchester, at an early period of his life ; and to this amiable and able prelate he was indebted for his first preferment, which was the rectory of Overton, and afterwards for that of East Woodhay, both in Hampshire. The same zealous patron also appointed him archdeacon of Winchester in the year 1750 ; and being now in the high road to preferment by the kindness of Providence and the regard of his friends, his own merit rendered his future promotion neither doubtful nor distant.

In 1754 he obtained the degree of doctor in divinity *by diploma*, from his university ; and the following year,

on the appointment of his noble pupil the marquis of Hartington to be lord-lieutenant of Ireland, Dr. Lowth accompanied him as first chaplain; and soon after was offered the bishopric of Limerick. But the attractions of a mitre in the sister kingdom were, at that time less powerful than the endearments of family connections, and literary pursuits in his native country; and he exchanged the see for a prebend of Durham, and the rectory of Sedgfield in that diocese.

In 1758, Dr. Lowth preached a visitation-sermon before the bishop of Durham; which was afterwards printed, and has been much admired for the liberal spirit which it breathes. A few short extracts, as developing the sentiments of such an eminent man at that period of his life, may be properly introduced here. "Christianity," observes this eloquent preacher, "was published to the world in the most enlightened age; it invited and challenged the examination of the ablest judges, and stood the test of the severest scrutiny; the more it is brought to the light, to the greater advantage will it appear. When, on the other hand, the dark ages of barbarism came on, as every art and science was almost extinguished, so was Christianity in proportion oppressed and overwhelmed by error and superstition; and they that pretended to defend it from the assaults of its enemies by prohibiting examination and free enquiry, took the surest method of cutting off all hopes of its recovery. Again, when letters revived, and reason regained her liberty; when a spirit of enquiry began to prevail, and was kept up and promoted by a happy invention, by which the communication of knowledge was wonderfully facilitated; Christianity immediately emerged out of darkness, and was in a manner republished to the world in its native simplicity. It has always flourished or decayed together with learning and liberty: it will ever stand or fall with them. Let no man be alarmed at the attempts of atheists or infidels: let them produce their cause; let them bring forth *their strong reasons*. to their own confusion: afford

them not the advantage of restraint, the only advantage which their cause permits of; let them not boast the false credit of supposed arguments, and pretended demonstrations, which they are forced to suppress. What has been the consequence of all that licentious contradiction, with which the gospel has been received in these our times, and in this nation? Hath it not given birth to such irrefragable apologies, and convincing illustrations, of our most holy religion, as no other age or nation ever produced? — Where freedom of enquiry is maintained and exercised, under the direction of the sincere word of God, falsehood may perhaps triumph for a day; but to-morrow truth will certainly prevail, and every succeeding day will confirm her superiority."

To controvert the opinions of such an eminent divine, may appear arrogance; but an unlimited right of discussion in the vernacular tongue is not perhaps unattended with danger. Where the genuine love of truth is the object of pursuit, God forbid that the liberty of the press should ever be restrained! but where cavils are raised merely to entrap the ignorant, and objections a thousand times refuted are vamped up anew to poison the unreflecting, a wise man will pause before he gives his assent to unrestrained discussion, and a good man will hesitate to indulge it.

The fame of Dr. Lowth as an elegant writer and a biblical critic, was now supreme. Utility or ornament was conspicuous in all his publications, from his *Lectures on the Sacred Poetry of the Hebrews*, to his *Short Introduction to English Grammar*; and truth was adorned with all the embellishments of diction, and all the force of argument. His *Life of William of Wykeham*, the founder of the college in which he had received his education, may be considered as a tribute of gratitude to the memory of that beneficent patron of literature; and will exalt the character of the person who paid it, in the estimation of every man of moral sentiment. His controversy with *Warburton*, bishop of Gloucester, was carried on with liberality

and some smart raillery on his part ; but Warburton, though a strenuous and real defender of Christianity, could never dispute without indulging a spirit of acrimony.

Dr. Lowth was raised to the mitre in 1766, and was consecrated bishop of St. David's ; but a few months after was translated to the see of Oxford, and in 1777 to that of London.

The year after he entered on this last bishopric he published his *New Translation of Isaiah* ; with a preliminary dissertation, and a variety of learned notes. No person was better qualified for this arduous task, and none could have executed it better. His previous acquirements, great as they were, undoubtedly were all called into action on this occasion ; and the learned in every part of Europe have re-echoed the applauses of his countrymen on the execution of this elaborate work, which will transmit his name with honour to remote posterity.

Amidst the unclouded sunshine of prosperity, the best qualities of the heart are frequently obscured. It is affliction that tries our faith, and improves our virtues. After bishop Lowth had risen to deserved preferment, and in point of temporal good could have no more to ask, it pleased the Supreme Dispenser of all to exercise his patience, by some of the severest trials that human nature can undergo. As he advanced in years, he was harassed by a cruel and incurable disorder ; and to increase his calamity, he suffered some of the most afflictive dispensations of Providence. His eldest daughter, for whom he felt the fondest paternal regard, had been carried off by a premature fate, and on her tomb he engraved his affection. The classical scholar will read these very beautiful Latin lines with a plaintive pleasure ; and the English reader will not be displeased with the translation subjoined, though far inferior to the graces of the original :

Cara, vale ! ingenio præstans, pietate, pudore,
 Et plusquam natæ nomine cara, vale !
 Cara Maria, vale ! at veniet felicius ævum,
 Quando iterum tecum, sim modò dignus, ero.
 " Cara, redi ;" lætâ tum dicam voce, " paternos,
 " Eja age in amplexus, cara Maria ! redi."

Dearer than Daughter, parallel'd by few
 In genius, goodness, modesty, — adieu !
 Adieu, Maria ! till that day more blest,
 When, if deserving, I with thee shall rest.
 " Come," then thy sire will cry, in joyful strain,
 " Oh ! come to my paternal arms again."

The loss of his second daughter was most impressively awful. As she was presiding at his tea-table, and was going to place a cup of coffee on the salver, " Take this," said she, " to the bishop of Bristol." Immediately the cup and her hand dropped on the salver, and she expired without a groan.

The venerable bishop bore all with pious resignation ; and his character gained new lustre from his Christian magnanimity. Before this last stroke, he had been offered the primacy, on the death of archbishop Cornwallis ; but he was already weaned from the pursuits of ambition ; though he continued to perform the duties of his station with exemplary prudence and propriety. At last, in 1787, he was released from " the burden of the flesh ;" and left this world, in " the sure and certain hope of a better."

To the public character of bishop Lowth, it is to be regretted that more numerous private details cannot be added. But his learning and taste are abundantly exemplified in his works. He loved the arts with enthusiasm, and possessed a truly poetical imagination. The character of his conversation was elegance, suavity, and unaffected ease. In his temper, he is said to have felt that warmth of susceptibility, which is the constant concomitant of genius ; and his disposition is pourtrayed as *more inclinable* to the serious than the gay.

He was of the middle stature, and extremely well proportioned. His complexion was fair and florid, and his whole aspect remarkably animated and expressive. He left a son and a daughter ; and was privately interred in a vault of Fulham church.

JOHN HOWARD.

Born 1726. — Died 1790.

From 12th George I. to 30th George III.

And now, Philanthropy, thy rays divine
 Dart round the globe from Zembla to the Line ;
 O'er each dark prison plays the cheering light,
 Like northern lustres o'er the vault of night.
 From realm to realm, with cross or crescent crown'
 Where'er mankind and misery are found,
 O'er burning sands, deep waves, or wilds of snow,
 Thy HOWARD journeying seeks the house of woe.
 Down many a winding step to dungeons dank,
 Where anguish wails aloud, and fetters clank,
 To caves bestrew'd with many a mouldering bone,
 And cells whose echoes only learn to groan ;
 Where no kind bars a whispering friend disclose,
 No sunbeam enters, and no zephyr blows ;
 He treads, inemulous of fame or wealth,
 Profuse of toil, and prodigal of health ;
 With soft assuasive eloquence expands
 Power's rigid heart, and opes his clenching hand :
 Leads stern-ey'd Justice to the dark domains,
 If not to sever, to relax the chains ;
 Or guides awaken'd Mercy through the gloom,
 And shows the prison sister to the tomb ;
 Gives to her babes the self-devoted wife,
 To her fond husband liberty and life !

The spirits of the good, who bend from high,
 Wide o'er these earthly scenes their partial eye,

When first, array'd in Virtue's purest robe,
 They saw her HOWARD traversing the globe ;
 So round his brows her sun-like glory blaze,
 In arrowy circles of unwearied rays :
 Mistook a mortal for an angel-guest,
 And ask'd what seraph-foot the earth impress'd.
 Onward he moves ! Disease and Death retire ;
 And murmuring dæmons hate him, and admire.

DARWIN.

JOHN HOWARD, the great philanthropist, who, copying the divine example of Christ, "went about doing good," was born at Hackney. His father, who was very respectably connected, engaging in trade, kept a warehouse in Long-lane, Smithfield. He died early, leaving his son under the care of guardians. Not being intended for a learned profession, he received only an ordinary education : but the strength of his mind, and the steadiness of his perseverance, made up the deficiency ; and he wrote in his native tongue on subjects which have gained him a juster reputation than the mere scholar can ever expect.

Concerning his early habits, though his character has been so minutely scrutinized, very little is known. The marked propensities of the mind, however, appeared at very different periods, accordingly as occasion called them into action. This will be illustrated in the subsequent memoirs.

Having, in the opinion of his guardians, acquired a proper education for the trade to which they had destined him, he was apprenticed to an eminent wholesale grocer in London : but the delicacy of his constitution proving unequal to the toils of business ; and the circumstances in which his father had left him and an only sister, rendering it unnecessary for him to persevere in trade to the injury of his health ; he bought out the last part of his indentures, and made a tour on the continent.

On his return he took lodgings at Stoke Newington, at the house of Mrs. Lardeau ; a sensible good woman, but

who had been an invalid for many years. Having thus felt the misery of ill health herself, she sympathised with others. Howard's constitution was not yet confirmed or recovered from the effects of confinement, during his apprenticeship; and in his landlady he met with a tender and attentive nurse. At length her assiduities conquered his heart; and though old enough to be his mother, and broken by infirmities, he made her an offer of his hand. The good woman, who had entertained no views of this nature, and perhaps was surprised at the proposal, expostulated with him on the extravagance of such an union. But it was not the character of Mr. Howard to be deterred from his purpose by the dread of obloquy or ridicule: and she became his wife in 1752, while he generously bestowed the small fortune which she possessed on her sister; a proof that interest had no share in the match.

During his residence at Stoke Newington, he spent his time chiefly in improving his mind, and enlarging his acquaintance with books. Being enthusiastic in all his pursuits, he was seldom frustrated in his aims; and he furnished himself with a very considerable stock of knowledge, moral, religious, and scientific. It is said that he frequently rode out with a book in his pocket, turned his horse to graze on a common; and, when the season permitted, read several hours with ardour. He unquestionably had what may be called eccentricities; perhaps no man of quick sensibility or genius is devoid of some: but his were all of the most amiable complexion, and he had seldom reason to blush for them.

After three years his wife died, to his real sorrow. About this time his philosophical attainments procured him the honour of being elected a fellow of the Royal Society; and being now disengaged from domestic cares, he formed the resolution of visiting Lisbon, which had then become the object of melancholy attraction by the recent earthquake. His friends strenuously dissuaded him from this design, on account of the danger of being

taken by the French, with whom we were then at war: but their remonstrances were ineffectual, and the consequence was as had been predicted; the ship in which he sailed was captured by one of the enemy's privateers, and he was soon after lodged in a French prison. He now felt the miseries of confinement; the latent sympathies of his soul were excited; and the future direction of his time and his talents, which have gained him immortal fame, was probably owing in a great measure to this personal misfortune. In his *State of the Prisons*, he says, "Perhaps what I suffered on this occasion increased, if it did not call forth my sympathy with the unhappy people whose cause is the subject of this book."

Soon after his liberation, he settled at Brokenhurst, near Lympington, in a most retired and delightful situation; and here, in 1758, he married Harriet, only daughter of Edward Leeds, esquire, of Croxton, in Cambridgeshire. The pleasures of domestic endearment, and those avocations which are peculiar to rural life, seem to have occupied the principal share of his attention for some succeeding years; but his lady dying in childbed of an only son in 1765, he was again a widower. Relinquishing his sweet retreat in the New Forest, he now purchased an estate at Cardington, near Bedford, in the vicinity of his relation Mr. Whitbread: and there he determined to settle.

The philanthropy of his disposition now began to display itself, by numerous acts of pure benevolence. He projected many improvements of his estate; as much to give employment to the poor, as to gratify his own taste; he built cottages for some, and others he clothed. Industry and sobriety, however, were the only recommendations to his favour; and thus, in a moral as well as a charitable view, his conduct became exemplary.

He had been brought up among the dissenters, and to their communion he strictly adhered; but his *benevolence* was neither confined to sect, nor warped by party.

It is natural to suppose that the dissenters were not a little attached to such an able member of their society ; and on their interest he was afterwards, in 1774, an unsuccessful candidate as a representative for the borough of Bedford. In conjunction with Mr. Whitbread, who was also a candidate, he petitioned against the return ; but though it was amended by declaring his associate duly elected, Mr. Howard found his prospects delusive. He therefore turned his ambition into another channel : where there were no competitors, and his praise would thus be undivided.

Before he had aspired to a seat in the senate, he had served the office of high-sheriff for the county of Bedford ; which, as he emphatically observes, “brought the distress of prisoners more immediately under his notice ;” and this, reviving the idea of his own captivity, led him to form the benevolent design of visiting all the prisons, and places of confinement, throughout England ; for the celestial purpose of alleviating the miseries of the sufferers, and meliorating their condition. This project, which gave full latitude to the philanthropy of his heart, he accomplished with indefatigable zeal. Being examined before the house of commons on the subject of prisons, he received their thanks for his exertions ; and had the happiness to find that his voluntary labours had not been wholly in vain ; as they excited the attention of the legislature, and were in some measure productive of the benefits proposed by him.

To a man of Mr. Howard's enthusiasm, an incentive to do good was scarcely necessary : but the encouragement which he received, operated like a cordial on his mind ; and having repeatedly inspected the receptacles of crime, of poverty, and misery, throughout Great Britain and Ireland, he extended his views to foreign countries. With this design, so beautifully pourtrayed in the poetical lines prefixed to the present article, he travelled three times through France, four times through Germany, five times through Holland, twice through

Italy, once through Spain and Portugal, and also through Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Poland, and part of Turkey. These excursions occupied, with some short intervals of rest at home, the period of twelve years; and never before was such a considerable portion of an individual's life applied to a more benevolent and laudable purpose, without any motive of interest or pleasure, except the virtuous satisfaction of serving his fellow-creatures.

His *States of the Prisons in England and Wales, with Preliminary Observations, and an Account of some Foreign Prisons*, was first published in 1777; and in Appendixes, he continued his remarks on the countries which he visited in succession. Such an aggregate of private misery, of insensibility in gaolers, and neglect or cruelty in magistrates, was never before exhibited to the commiseration or abhorrence of mankind. It has been said that his personal safety was endangered in France, by the spirit with which he exposed its despotism; but later enquiries show, that even the most active ministers of arbitrary power were impressed with a reverential regard for the character of the man, and never had it in contemplation to interrupt him in his laudable pursuits.

By the death of his sister unmarried, he gained a liberal accession of fortune; which, in his own opinion, could not be spent to a better purpose than in the relief of poignant misery, shut up from every eye, except that of the most active benevolence. Though the selfish and uncharitable have attempted to blame the profusion of his bounty; yet when it is considered that his only son was abundantly provided for, it is impossible to fix any charge of this nature on Mr. Howard, which will not recoil on his detractors. But the purest conduct must not expect to escape the tongue of malice; for superior excellence is the butt at which obloquy constantly aims its darts.

While engaged on one of his last peregrinations of love and charity to the human race, his singular worth had made such an impression on the public mind, that a liberal

subscription was opened to defray the expense of erecting a statue to his honour, while yet alive. The principles of Howard were abhorrent to ostentation; his services to mankind were not baits for praise. When he heard of this scheme, "Have I not," said he, "one friend in England, who would put a stop to such a proceeding?" The business was accordingly dropped; but to the credit of the subscribers, the money collected was principally applied to the relief of captive indigence and misfortune.

An Account of the principal Lazarettos in Europe, with various papers relative to the plague, and further observations on prisons and hospitals, made its appearance in 1789. In this publication Mr. Howard announced his intention of again quitting his country, for the purpose of revisiting Russia, Turkey, and some countries of the East. "I am not insensible," observes he, "of the dangers that must attend such a journey. Trusting however in the protection of that kind Providence which has hitherto preserved me, I calmly and cheerfully commit myself to the disposal of unerring wisdom. Should it please God to cut off my life in the prosecution of this design, let not my conduct be uncandidly imputed to rashness or enthusiasm: but to a serious deliberate conviction that I am pursuing the path of duty; and to a sincere desire of being made an instrument of more extensive usefulness to my fellow-creatures, than could be expected in the narrow circle of retired life." The event which his mind seemed to presage, and for which he had thus prepared himself by deprecating invidious reflections, actually took place. Having spent some time at Cherson, a new Russian settlement, where the malignity of disease had cut off thousands of that nation, as much from ignorance and neglect as from the natural insalubrity of the place, his benevolence prompted him to visit a young lady, who lay dangerously ill of an epidemic fever, in order to administer some medicine for her relief; when he caught the distemper, and soon became the victim of his own humanity. Prince Potemkin,

hearing of his illness, sent his own physician to attend him; but all in vain: the days of his life were numbered; the measure of his labours was complete: and he died after a short confinement. He was buried in the garden of a French gentleman in the neighbourhood; and even in that barbarous country, his grave was not unwatered by a tear. In Britain his death was heard of with the sincerest regret: it was announced in the London Gazette, a compliment which no private subject ever received before; and all ranks were eager to testify their regard to the memory of a man who had merited so well of human nature in general, and who will ever be an ornament to the country that produced him.

The abstemiousness of Mr. Howard was very great; and to this cause the prolongation of his life amidst infection and disease, may in a great measure be ascribed. He totally avoided the use of animal food; and at one time lived almost wholly on potatoes; at another, on tea, bread, and butter. No convivial invitations, however honourable, were accepted by him; his only delight consisted in visiting the abodes of misery, that he might be the happy instrument of alleviating it.

His monument in St. Paul's cathedral, is at once a proof of national genius and national gratitude. The inscription tells us, with truth, "that he trod an open but unfrequented path to immortality, in the ardent and unremitted exercise of Christian charity;" and concludes, "May this tribute to his fame excite an emulation of his truly honourable actions!"

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.

Born 1723. — Died 1792.*From 9th George I. to 32d George III.*

PAINTING may be considered as the most transitory and confined of the imitative arts, if we except the theatrical; for colours will fade, and canvass will perish, and the works of the same artist cannot be generally known, because they cannot be generally diffused. On the other hand, it may certainly be pronounced the most delightful; for the brilliancy of colouring, the symmetry of form, the grouping of figures, the expression of character, and the whole effect instantaneously produced by a picture of excellence, create a sensation, which in point of vividness and force cannot be equalled by any other effort of human genius. Yet this noble art is one of those attainments, in which England was latest to prefer her claims. The productions of the most celebrated painters of antiquity, have long since sunk under the destroying hand of time; and probably owe a considerable portion of their traditional renown, to the obscurity which thus envelopes them. The almost divine masterpieces which Italy has produced in later periods, and which still exist to attest their own excellence, long seemed to set competition at defiance, and inspired a high degree of admiration, but mixed with despondency, at ever being able to emulate such exalted models. But the present auspicious reign has established a new era in the liberal arts; and to whatever eminence we may ultimately attain in that of painting, the subject of the present article will be allowed by an impartial posterity, incomparably the highest rank among the founders of the British school.

The father of sir Joshua Reynolds was master of the *grammar-school* at Plympton, in Devonshire, which is

tuition afforded him only a very moderate subsistence ; and as he was destitute of any other preferment, he would have found it difficult to provide for a family of eleven children, if five of them had not died in their infancy. Joshua, the seventh child, was born at that place, July 16, 1723, and was instructed in the classics under his father ; who, however, being himself fond of drawing, encouraged the inclination his son very early displayed for the art, in which he afterwards became so illustrious. The young painter's first attempts were made in copying several little pieces, by two of his elder sisters ; and he afterwards took for his subjects such prints as he found in his father's books, particularly in Dryden's translation of Plutarch's Lives. When he was only eight years of age, he read with great avidity a treatise on perspective, which happened to lie in his father's parlour ; and made himself so completely master of it, that it is said he never afterwards had occasion to study any other book on the subject. He then made a drawing of his school, which was a building raised on stone pillars ; and this he executed with such fidelity, that his father was struck with admiration. From such attempts, he proceeded to draw likenesses of the friends and relations of his family, with tolerable success. But what most strongly confirmed him in his love of the art, was the perusal of a treatise on painting ; which so delighted and inflamed his mind, that Raphael now appeared to him superior to the most illustrious names, of ancient or modern times.

As his propensity to this fascinating art became daily more apparent, his father determined to indulge it ; and for this purpose, when he was about seventeen years of age, placed him as a pupil under Mr. Hudson ; who, though but an indifferent painter, was certainly the most distinguished of that period. After spending three years in London, however, he left his master on a slight disagreement, and returned to his native town ; a circumstance which he ever after considered as very fortunate ;

since he was thus led to deviate from the tameness and insipidity of Hudson, and to form a manner of his own. He now passed three years in carelessness and neglect ; but at last applied himself with increased energy to the study and practice of his art. His first performance, after this renewed application, was the portrait of a military officer ; and when, long afterwards, at a late period of his life, he saw this picture, he was surprised to find it so well done. At this time (when he was twenty-three years of age) his father died ; and left him without any inherited fortune, to be the fabricator of his own. After spending three years more in the practice of painting, partly in London and partly in his native county, he fortunately became acquainted with lord Edgumbe, and with captain (afterwards lord) Keppel, each of whom warmly patronised him ; and on the latter being appointed to the command of a squadron in the Mediterranean, Mr. Reynolds accompanied him in his voyage ; and finally landing at Leghorn, proceeded to Rome. He was now in the grand metropolis of the fine arts ; where Genius, both in ancient and in modern times, had held undisputed sway, and where his imagination and his judgment might receive the fullest gratification. He was dejected, however, to find that the works of Raphael did not at once make all the impression upon him which he had anticipated ; and with a becoming diffidence imputed it to his own incapacity and want of taste. But, on enquiry, he soon learnt, that this was universally the case with persons of real genius ; and that those who pretended to instant raptures at the first sight of those sublime performances, were always unable to appreciate their genuine merit ; as their beauties, which justly entitle them to their high celebrity, are by no means superficial and attractive.

He did not long continue the common practice of copying the great works which were now within his reach ; but rather employed his time on examining, and fixing in his mind, their peculiar and characteristic beauties. In-

stead of merely imitating the touches of the principal masters, he aspired to seize their grand conceptions ; and with what success is well known. After an absence of three years, he returned to London, when the improvement he had made in this period very soon attracted the public notice. A whole-length portrait which he had painted of his friend and patron admiral Keppel, displayed such talents, that he was universally allowed to be not only at the head of his profession, but the greatest painter that England had seen since the time of Vandyke : indeed it began to be questioned which of the two was the most excellent. For many years, the painters of portraits had contented themselves with exhibiting as correct a resemblance as they could ; but seem not to have thought, or to have been capable, of enlivening the canvass, by giving a kind of historical air to their pictures. Mr. Reynolds soon deviated from this insipid manner : and besides being very happy in the mere likenesses, he penetrated into the minds, habits, and manners, of those who sat to him : accordingly, the majority of his portraits are so appropriate and characteristic, that they convey to posterity a complete idea of the persons represented, in all their principal features, both of body and of mind.

Soon after his return from Italy, he contracted an acquaintance with Dr. Johnson, which was occasioned by the following circumstance. Happening to meet with Johnson's *Life of Savage*, the poet, he began to read it, while standing with his arm leaning against a chimney-piece ; and it arrested his attention so strongly, that he was not able to lay down the book till he had finished it ; when, on attempting to move, he found his arm totally benumbed. As he then did not personally know the author, he naturally felt a strong desire to see and converse with that extraordinary man ; and soon after found an opportunity of being introduced to him. At their very first *meeting* he had the good-fortune, in the course of conversation, to make a remark which struck Johnson so

forcibly, that the doctor paid him particular attention; and when the company broke up, went home and supped with Mr. Reynolds. In consequence of the connection thus auspiciously begun, our painter, in the latter part of the year 1759, supplied his friend with three essays on his own art, for the *Idler*; a paper which Johnson was then publishing periodically, as he had formerly done the *Rambler*. These essays form numbers 76, 79, and 82, of that paper; and were Mr. Reynolds's first literary productions. The intimacy thus contracted, lasted till the two friends were divided by death.

A new and brilliant epoch opened in Mr. Reynolds's life, when, after some premature associations of the artists among themselves, his majesty was pleased, in December, 1768, to incorporate by charter, the Royal Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture; to be composed of the ablest and most respectable artists resident in Great Britain. On this occasion Mr. Reynolds, as he unquestionably held the first rank in his profession, was appointed the president; and soon afterwards received the honour of knighthood. It was a part of the plan of the new institution, that its expenses were to be supported by the produce of an annual exhibition of works of art, or the deficiency to be supplied out of the king's privy purse. For a few years it required the assistance of his majesty's bounty, who at various times was graciously pleased to advance in this manner above five thousand pounds: but the exhibition becoming more profitable, in a short time was more than adequate to maintain the establishment; and it still happily continues to furnish annually a cheap and exquisite gratification to the lovers of the elegant arts, and to inspire and widely extend a taste for cultivating and patronising them.

In the situation of president of the Royal Academy, sir Joshua voluntarily imposed upon himself the task of delivering, periodically, lectures to the academicians on his art; and thus produced fifteen Discourses between the years 1769 and 1790, which contain such a body of

just criticism on that difficult subject, clothed in elegant language, as will ensure his immortal celebrity, no less than the works of his pencil. During this period, in 1773, the university of Oxford honoured him with the degree of doctor of laws. After the publication of the first seven of these Discourses, Catharine, empress of Russia, the general and munificent patron of talents, was so pleased with the perusal of them, that she sent sir Joshua a gold box with a bas-relief of her majesty on the lid, set round with diamonds, inclosing a note written with her own hand. He had before been commissioned to paint for her imperial majesty an historical picture, on any subject which he should choose; and on this occasion he painted the Infant Hercules strangling the serpents in his cradle. For this picture the empress, after his death, sent his executors fifteen hundred guineas.

Sir Joshua was ever active and assiduous in his encouragement of the annual exhibitions; to which, collectively, he sent no less than two hundred and forty-four of his own performances. During this brilliant career, his profession did not permit him often to make excursions from London. In the summer, however, he at different times visited the seats of some distinguished noblemen and gentlemen, and occasionally spent a few days at his own villa on Richmond-Hill: but was always glad on returning to a town life, to which he was particularly attached. In the year 1781 he visited the Netherlands and Holland, in order to view the most celebrated productions of the painters of those countries; and the fruit of this journey was a very pleasing Account of it, with masterly critical observations on the pictures which he had examined. His own pieces too, after this period, were still more excellent than before.

In 1783, the late Mr. Mason having finished an elegant translation of Dufresnoy's Art of Painting, sir Joshua enriched it with an ample and ingenious commentary; which, together with the poem itself, may be said to

comprise the whole science and practice of painting. In the ensuing year, he was appointed principal painter in ordinary to his majesty ; and on St. Luke's day (the patron saint of painters) was presented with the freedom of the painters' company.

Finding how little time he could spare from his profession for the purpose of acquiring general knowledge from books, sir Joshua very early and wisely resolved to partake as much as possible of the society of all the ingenious and learned men of his time ; a practice which he has strongly recommended to other artists, in one of his Discourses : and in consequence of this, and of his convivial habits, his table for above thirty years exhibited an assemblage of all the talents of Great Britain and Ireland ; there being, during that period, scarcely a person in the three kingdoms distinguished for attainments in literature or the arts, or for exertions at the bar, in the senate, or the field, who was not occasionally found among his visitors. The pleasure and instruction which he derived from such company, induced him in the year 1764, in conjunction with Dr. Johnson, to establish the Literary Club ; which still exists, and has included in the list of its members, many of the most celebrated characters of the age.

From the time of his return from Italy, sir Joshua had the misfortune to be very deaf ; a complaint which was occasioned by his catching cold in the palace of the Vatican, by painting for a long time near a stove, which attracted the damp vapours of that building, and affected the organs of hearing. When in company with only one person, indeed, he could hear tolerably well : but at other times, was obliged to use an ear-trumpet to enable him to partake of the conversation of his friends ; and such was the serenity of his temper, that what he did not at once hear, he never troubled those with whom he conversed to repeat. To these circumstances Goldsmith alludes, in drawing his character in the form of an epitaph during sir Joshua's life-time, in the following lines :

Here Reynolds is laid; and, to tell you my mind,
He has not left a wiser or better behind.
His pencil was striking, resistless, and grand;
His manners were gentle, complying, and bland.
Still born to improve us in every part:
His pencil our faces, his manners our heart.
To coxcombs averse; yet, most civilly steering,
When they judg'd without skill he was still hard of hearing;
When they talk'd of their Raphaels, Correggios, and stuff,
He shifted his trumpet, and only took snuff.

Sir Joshua attained a height in fame and fortune, unequalled by any former painter of this country: and his celebrity was spread over every part of the civilized world. For a very long period, he enjoyed an uninterrupted state of good health: to which his custom of painting standing (first introduced by him) certainly contributed; as he thus escaped the disorders incident to a sedentary life. In July, 1789, he for the first time perceived his sight so much affected, that he found it difficult to proceed in a portrait on which he was engaged; and in a few months, in spite of the aid of the most skilful oculists, he was entirely deprived of the sight of his left eye. After some attempts, he determined to paint no more, lest his other eye should also become affected; a resolution which deprived him of an employment he loved much more for its own sake, than for the great emolument which it brought him. Still he retained his usual spirits, was amused by reading or by hearing others read to him, and partook of the society of his friends with the same pleasure as before. In the latter part of the year 1791, however, he became afflicted with a disorder of the liver; which, after a confinement of three months, supported with an equanimity rarely displayed, carried him off on the 23d of February, 1792, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. He was buried in St. Paul's cathedral, with every honour that could be shown to genius and to worth by a grateful and enlightened nation, near the spot where was formerly interred his great predecessor Vandyke.

Sir Joshua Reynolds was in stature rather under the middle size; of a florid complexion, and a lively and pleasing aspect; well made, and extremely active. His appearance at first sight impressed the spectator with the idea of a well-born and well-bred English gentleman. With an uncommon equability of temper, he possessed a constant flow of spirits, which rendered him at all times a most pleasing companion; and in conversation his manner was perfectly natural, simple, and unassuming. His professional reputation stands on a solid and durable basis; and in one department of his art it has been forcibly declared by a competent judge, that the exuberance of his invention will be the *grammar* of future painters of portraits. In the exercise of his talents he was indefatigably assiduous; and, to use the words applied by Dr. Johnson to Pope, "He was one of those few whose labour is their pleasure; he was never elevated into negligence, nor wearied to impatience; he never passed a fault uncorrected by indifference, nor quitted it by despair. He laboured his works first to gain reputation, and afterwards to keep it."

His friend Mr. Burke, with whom he lived in great intimacy for above thirty years, has summed up his character, in an affectionate tribute to his memory, from which the following passages are extracted. "Sir Joshua Reynolds was, on very many accounts, one of the most memorable men of his time. He was the first Englishman who added the praise of the elegant arts to the other glories of his country. In taste, in grace, in facility, in happy invention, and in the richness and harmony of colouring, he was equal to the great masters of the renowned ages. In portraits he went beyond them; for he communicated to that description of the art, in which English artists are most engaged, a variety, a fancy, and a dignity, derived from the higher branches, which even those who professed them in a superior manner did not always preserve when they delineated individual nature. His portraits remind the spectator of the invention of

history, and the amenity of landscape. In painting portraits he appeared not to be raised upon that platform, but to descend to it from a higher sphere. His paintings illustrate his lessons, and his lessons seem to be derived from his paintings.

“ In full affluence of foreign and domestic fame, admired by the expert in art and by the learned in science, courted by the great, caressed by sovereign powers, and celebrated by distinguished poets; his native humility, modesty, and candour, never forsook him, even on surprise or provocation; nor was the least degree of arrogance or assumption visible to the most scrutinizing eye, in any part of his conduct or discourse.

“ His talents of every kind, powerful from nature, and not meanly cultivated by letters; his social virtues in all the relations and all the habitudes of life; rendered him the centre of a very great and unparalleled variety of agreeable societies, which will be dissipated by his death. He had too much merit not to excite some jealousy; too much innocence to provoke any enmity. The loss of no man of his time can be felt with more sincere, general, and unmingled sorrow.”

WILLIAM MURRAY,

EARL OF MANSFIELD.

Born 1705. — Died 1793.

From 3d Anne, to 33d George III.

AMONG the liberal studies, the attainment of exalted eminence is perhaps more difficult, and the talents which it requires are more solid and various in the law than in any other; and besides this difficulty, which is inherent in the profession itself, the higher the station in which its

votary is placed, the more consummate of course are the qualities required, to discharge its duties with distinction or propriety. Subtlety of argument, a facility of speaking, and a competent share of legal knowledge, may confer considerable reputation on a pleader, who yet may be destitute of the far superior qualifications requisite for a judge. So multitudinous indeed are the restraints and regulations which a high degree of civilization occasions, — particularly in a commercial country like this, where all the powers of the mind are exerted, both honourably and dishonourably, in the acquisition of wealth, — that nothing less than the most indefatigable perseverance, superadded to natural abilities, can master the whole of the legal code, and store the mind with the particular rules to be applied to every contingent circumstance. Yet the character of the judge who is to preside in the first civil court of this kingdom, will not be perfect without something still higher : he should possess that force of genius which is peculiarly the gift of heaven, and which no study can supply, where nature has not been more than commonly liberal ; — that quick intuitive glance of the mind, which not only darts through the obscurities and perplexity in which the perverse ingenuity of contending advocates often envelopes a cause, but at once performs the much harder task of disentangling the intricacies with which the question itself is often embarrassed, and elicits a ray of light to make the genuine point on which the justice of the case turns, obvious to a common understanding. One more feature is wanting to the perfection of this portrait, namely, eloquence ; and when these various and splendid qualities are considered, it will be readily allowed, that the distinguished sages of the law are amply entitled to the admiration and reverence with which they are usually contemplated. All these accomplishments, in as high a degree as they were ever possessed by any mortal in the annals of our national jurisprudence, adorned the first earl of Mansfield ; whom it is the purpose of the present memoir to hold out as a pro-

minent and shining example to youthful emulation in the same career.

The honourable William Murray was the eleventh child of David viscount Stormont; and was born at Perth in Scotland, on the 2d of March, 1705. In his infancy, however, he was removed to London; and consequently avoided imbibing that peculiarity of accent which frequently adheres to the natives of North Britain for life. He was placed as a king's scholar in Westminster-school at the age of fourteen, where he gave early proofs of his uncommon abilities; not so much in versification as in his other exercises, and particularly in his declamations. In his nineteenth year, he stood first on the list of those young gentlemen who were sent to Oxford, and was accordingly entered of Christchurch, in that university. After the usual period, he was admitted to the degree of bachelor of arts; and on the death of king George the First, which happened near this time, he wrote some elegant Latin verses which were honoured by the university with the first prize. His poetical talents indeed were very considerable, though he had the good sense not to cultivate them at the risk of his general or professional studies; and to this Mr. Pope, who was afterwards his intimate friend, alludes in the following line:

“ How sweet an Ovid was in Murray lost !”

He also about this time composed a Latin oration in praise of Demosthenes; which was more congenial to the pursuits he had in view, and exhibited a strong presage of his own future fame.

Mr. Murray had previously, in the year 1724, been admitted a student of Lincoln's-inn; and in 1730, after taking the degree of master of arts, he left the university. He determined to visit foreign countries before commencing the serious prosecution of his legal studies; and accordingly travelled through France and Italy, at an age rather more mature than is usually chosen for such a purpose, but much the best fitted for improvement and

useful observation. In this journey, at Rome he was probably inspired and animated with the love of Ciceronian eloquence, and prompted to make its great author his example; and in his perambulations over classic ground, he perhaps became emulous to lay the foundation of that noble superstructure which he soon after raised. On his return, he wrote to the duke of Portland, who also was then on the point of setting out on his travels, two letters on the study of ancient and modern history; which contain excellent directions on that subject, and display a wonderful stock of reading and judgment for so young a man.

Mr. Murray was called to the bar in the year 1730; and in his pursuit of legal knowledge, his assiduity co-operated with his great abilities. These qualities, together with the prudence of his conduct, not only exempted him from all pecuniary embarrassments, (which slender fortune in some, and juvenile indiscretion in others, too frequently produce,) but procured him the esteem, the friendship, and the patronage, of the great oracles of the law who adorned that period; among whom was Mr. Yorke, afterwards lord-chancellor Hardwicke, whose life has been already related in this volume. Early in his professional career, he studied the graces of elocution under his friend Pope, who in this respect may be considered as one of the first masters of the time in which he lived: for Dr. Johnson observes, in his life of that great poet, that "when he was young, his voice was so pleasing that he was called the young nightingale;" and Pope, in an advanced age, certainly paid at least an equal compliment to Mr. Murray in giving him the epithet of "silver-tongued." A gentleman once surprised him at his chambers, in the act of practising the graces of speaking at a glass, while Pope sat by as his preceptor. Nor did the poet confine his benefits to private instructions of this nature; but in various parts of his works, was equally attentive to proclaim in enchanting language the merit of his young friend. In one passage he tells him,

“ at council-board rejoice
To see their judgments hang upon thy voice ;”

and describes him as

“ one whom nature, learning, birth, conspir’d
To form not to admire, but be admired.”

Mr. Murray became early engaged in several important causes ; in which his genius shone conspicuously, even through the disadvantages of being a junior counsel. He was in consequence frequently retained without any superior, and in a short time appeared in this character in several appeals at the bar of the house of lords ; where as he had a more dignified audience, and of course additional incitements to exertion, his fame rose fully in proportion, and his success was equal. His friend Pope alludes to this circumstance on one occasion, when, while giving him a solemn admonition, he at the same time pays him a most elegant compliment, in comparing him to Cicero and the great lord Clarendon :

“ Graced as thou art with all the power of words :
So known, so honour’d at the house of lords,
Conspicuous scene ! another yet is nigh,
More awful far, where kings and poets lie ;
Where Murray, long enough his country’s pride,
Shall be no more than Tully or than Hyde.”

The natural and acquired advantages which characterised his eloquence were such, and his perception was so quick, as to enable him to excel even upon the most unexpected emergency. A circumstance of this kind occurred during the year 1737, in a considerable cause, in which he was the junior counsel for the defendant. The leading counsel being suddenly seized with a fit in the court, the duty of addressing the jury devolved on Mr. Murray ; who at first modestly declined it, from not having studied the case for this purpose. The court, to indulge him, postponed the cause for about an hour ; and with only this preparation, he made so able a defence, as to reduce the damages against his client to a

mere trifle, and to gain for himself the reputation of being, a most prompt and perspicuous as well as powerful pleader. In the same year, a riot happening at Edinburgh, which made it necessary to call out a military force for the restoration of tranquillity, captain Porteous, the commanding officer, thought himself obliged to order the soldiers to fire upon the mob, by which means some persons were killed. This affair made a great noise at the time: and the captain underwent a trial in due course of law on a charge of murder, of which the jury found him guilty; but he was reprieved. The populace, however, being extremely exasperated against him, broke open the prison, dragged him out, and hanged him in the street. In consequence of these proceedings, a bill was brought into parliament for punishing the mayor of Edinburgh, and imposing a fine on the corporation, who were supposed to have been remiss in their duty on that occasion; and Mr. Murray was employed as counsel for the offending parties, in both houses of the legislature. His exertions in this cause, though unsuccessful, were so much to the satisfaction of his clients, that he was presented with the freedom of the city of Edinburgh in a gold box, as an acknowledgment of his services.

In the year 1738, Mr. Murray married a daughter of the earl of Winchelsea; and this union, besides the more solid enjoyment of domestic comfort, brought him also the advantages of fortune and splendid family connections. His business too was rapidly increasing, particularly in appeal-causes at the bar of the house of lords. His extensive fame now recommended him to the notice of the persons in power; and accordingly, in 1742, he was appointed solicitor-general, and on this occasion procured a seat in the house of commons. In that great assembly it frequently fell to his lot to be the particular antagonist of Mr. Pitt, afterwards earl of Chatham: who was then rising into public notice as the opposer of sir Robert Walpole's administration, which Mr. Murray's confidential post under government seemed now in some measure

to make it his duty to defend. They were indeed opponents through the whole of their political lives ; yet this did not lessen the respect which Mr. Pitt could not help entertaining for his extraordinary talents ; and many years afterwards, when by the favour of their sovereign they had both been ennobled, and met in the house of peers, lord Chatham on a particular occasion paid him the following compliment : “ My lords, I must beg the indulgence of the house : neither will my health permit me, nor do I pretend to be qualified, to follow the noble lord through the whole of his argument. No man is better acquainted with his abilities and learning, nor has a greater respect for them than I have. I have had the pleasure of sitting with him in the other house, and always listened to him with attention. I have not now lost a word of what he said, nor did I ever.”

About this time a Mr. Vernon, father of a young gentleman with whom Mr. Murray had been particularly intimate at school and at college, having previously lost his son, died, and left him a considerable estate, as the adopted substitute of his favourite child. — Mr. Murray’s powers were now displayed in all the vicissitudes of argument and debate. The court of chancery claimed from him some hours of practice in the morning ; the council-chamber, or the bar of the house of lords, demanded higher exertions in the afternoon ; and in the evening, in the house of commons, he entered the lists against the greatest of all rivals, Mr. Pitt.

In 1746 occurred the memorable impeachments of the Scotch lords, who had excited or conducted the rebellion in the preceding year ; and in the course of these, the eloquence of Mr. Murray as solicitor-general excited the admiration of all his hearers ; and even drew on him several distinguished compliments from the unhappy noblemen whom his duty led him to accuse, as well as from the lord-chancellor and the attorney-general. About this period too he proved the principal means of introducing to public notice, Dr. Blackstone, who was then a

barrister with little practice ; and of persuading him to compose the lectures which he afterwards extended and improved into his celebrated Commentaries on the Laws of England, a work of inestimable value.

The accumulation of honours, and the increase of fame, which now attended Mr. Murray, and two or three of his juvenile companions with whom he had formed an early friendship, excited much jealousy ; so true is the observation of the poet, that

“ Envy will follow merit like its shade,”

and a frivolous charge was brought against them by some persons, of having formerly often drank the Pretender's health. In consequence of this, the propriety of removing him from his office of solicitor-general began to be actually talked of ; and the privy-council actually made some examination into the matter. However, the accusation came to nothing ; and king George the Second viewed this idle affair in its true light. “ Whatever they were when they were Westminster boys,” said his majesty, with great good sense, “ they are now my very good friends.”

In 1754, Mr. Murray succeeded to the office of attorney-general ; and two years afterwards to the high dignity of lord-chief-justice of the court of king's-bench ; and at the same time was advanced to a peerage, by the title of baron Mansfield. In this new character, when thus called to preside in the first law court of the kingdom, his sound judgment and clear comprehension were very soon displayed in a cause which had at first appeared unimportant : and these irresistibly made a most favourable impression on the bar and the audience ; and drew a sincere and handsome acknowledgment from a distinguished judge, then sitting on the same bench.

Lord Mansfield made it one of his chief aims to strip every cause from the burdensome superfluities in which the counsel had invested it, and to reduce its merits within a compass which a plain understanding might embrace. He professed it his constant desire to do jus-

tice between man and man : this, he said, was the great end of all laws ; and this he would, on every occasion, endeavour really to obtain. In questions, particularly, arising from the disputed sense of an obscure will, he always tried by every means to discover what was the intention of the testator ; and this he adhered to, against the most ingenious and plausible arguments, in favour of a contrary interpretation of the contested passage. As an instance of this, in the summer of the year 1760, a laborious advocate having employed considerable time in producing several cases from ancient law-books to give a particular meaning to some part of an old woman's will, lord Mansfield, after hearing him with much patience, at last interrupted him by asking whether he thought the old woman had ever heard of these cases ; and if not, what plain justice must say in the matter. He immediately gave judgment on the principles of common sense, to the satisfaction of the whole court.

Though now elevated to such a height in his professional career, lord Mansfield did not disdain a singular opportunity of evincing the universality of his talents and knowledge ; but towards the end of the year 1759, actually composed a thanksgiving-sermon for his friend the bishop of Worcester, who had been ordered to preach on that occasion before the house of lords ; though he had but just taken his seat among them, and thus had not adequate time for preparing the discourse himself.

In all situations indeed, and on all occasions, his precepts and his practice inculcated and enforced every branch of moral rectitude. In trying a cause once on an action for debt, the defendant lost his temper in relating to his lordship with much warmth the great indignity put upon him as a merchant of London by the plaintiff, in causing him to be arrested not only in open day, but on the Royal Exchange. Lord Mansfield, however, with great composure, stopped him ; saying ; " Friend, you forget yourself ; *you* were the great offender in refusing to pay the debt : and let me give you a piece of advice,

worth more than the debt itself. Be careful in future not to put it into any man's power to arrest you for a just debt, either in public or private."

Lord Mansfield had deeply imbibed the plausible, but fallacious opinion, as experience proves, that nothing contributes so much to prevent crimes, as the certainty of punishment, if detected; and particularly in the case of forgery, so dangerous in a commercial country like this. Hence it was, in consequence of his advice, that Robert Perreau, who was found guilty of that crime, though recommended to the royal favour by a whole previous life of unspotted integrity and by the active friendship of many noble families, and even though proved to have been deluded and deceived by a brother and a most artful woman, paid his life as a forfeit to the violated laws, and to the rigorous policy required by an extensive system of mercantile credit. And a few years afterwards, when Dr. Dodd fell into the same fatal error, a single observation of the lord-chief-justice is said to have determined his fate, in opposition to the strongest solicitations that ever were made for mercy towards a condemned criminal. "If you pardon Dodd, you have murdered Perreau," said this impartial judge.

In the year 1768, Mr. Wilkes, who by leaving the country to escape a legal sentence had subjected himself to an outlawry, returned; and applied to the court of king's-bench to have it reversed. As this gentleman was then a great favourite with the populace, who were clamorous and indeed outrageous in his behalf, it was supposed that to decide against him on this point would produce dangerous consequences; and the political principles of lord Mansfield being known to be diametrically opposite to those of Mr. Wilkes, the public curiosity and anxiety were highly excited, concerning the expected decision of his lordship. His speech on this occasion, which was very long, was perhaps the most eloquent that he ever pronounced. After a masterly elucidation of the grounds assigned for the reversal of the outlawry, but all

EARL OF MANSFIELD

after expelling Mr. Wilkes (who was one of its members) for a libel, refused to admit him again, though was immediately re-elected by the freeholders of Midsessex, his former constituents; lord Mansfield, from motives of prudence, avoided giving a positive opinion concerning any part of the proceedings; but strenuously opposed attempts for inducing the house of lords to interfere what the commons might justly deem a question relating to their own peculiar privileges. In the early state of unhappy dispute with our American colonies, respecting the right of taxation in the British parliament; which afterwards ended in the American war, and the separation of that country from any political dependence upon Great Britain, lord Mansfield supported the existence of the absolute right, on arguments drawn from profound legal and political researches; and recommended a firm but prudent assertion and exercise of it. In the train of argument, however he might be supported by and precedent, reason and justice declared against and ultimately succeeded.

In 1770, the celebrated letters of Junius, which then published at intervals in one of the daily newspapers attracted a great degree of public attention: and government thought proper to order that anonymous writing addressed to the king to be prosecuted. At that time the law relative to libels was by no means so accurately fixed or agreed upon as it is at present: and lord Mansfield, according to what he considered to be the true of the law on this subject as it then existed, uniformly told the different juries in these causes, that if they were satisfied that the fact of publishing was proved against the defendants, and the publication itself bore the name ascribed to it in the indictment or information, they were bound to pronounce a verdict of Guilty; and the criminal intention of the defendants, and the libelous purport of the writing, were questions wholly out of the consideration of the court. This doctrine drew from lordship much merited opposition, and many

of which he disallowed, his lordship with great dignity alluded to his own personal situation with regard to this question. "I pass over many anonymous letters which I have received," said he. "Whoever the writers are, they take the wrong way. I will do my duty, unawed. What am I to fear? that 'lying infamy,' from the press, which daily coins false facts and false motives? The lies of calumny carry no terror to me: I trust that my temper of mind, and the colour and conduct of my life, have given me a suit of armour against these arrows. I wish for popularity: but it is that popularity which follows, not that which is run after; it is that popularity which, sooner or later, never fails to do justice to the pursuit of noble ends by noble means; I will not do that which my conscience tells me is wrong upon this occasion, to gain the huzzas of thousands, or the daily praises of all the papers which issue from the press. I will not avoid doing what I think is right, though it should draw on me the whole artillery of libels; all that falsehood and malice can invent, or the credulity of a deluded populace can swallow.

"The threats go farther than abuse; personal violence is denounced. I do not believe it; it is not the genius of the worst of men in this country, in the worst of times. But I have set my mind at rest. The last end that can happen to any man never comes too soon, if he falls in support of the law and liberty of his country; for liberty is synonymous with law and government. Such a shock too might be productive of public good: it might awaken the better part of the kingdom out of that lethargy which seems to have benumbed them; and bring the mad part back to their senses, as men intoxicated are sometimes stunned into sobriety."—In conclusion, his lordship pointed out a material error in the legal process which had not been noticed by Mr. Wilkes's council, and the outlawry was consequently reversed.

In the great political controversy which occurred in the years 1769 and 1770, when the house of commons,

after expelling Mr. Wilkes (who was one of its members) for a libel, refused to admit him again, though he was immediately re-elected by the freeholders of Middlesex, his former constituents; lord Mansfield, from motives of prudence, avoided giving a positive opinion concerning any part of the proceedings; but strenuously opposed all attempts for inducing the house of lords to interfere in what the commons might justly deem a question relative to their own peculiar privileges. In the early state of the unhappy dispute with our American colonies, respecting the right of taxation in the British parliament; which afterwards ended in the American war, and the total separation of that country from any political dependence upon Great Britain, lord Mansfield supported the existence of the absolute right, on arguments drawn from profound legal and political researches; and recommended a firm but prudent assertion and exercise of it. In this train of argument, however he might be supported by law and precedent, reason and justice declared against him, and ultimately succeeded.

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from the popular writers of that time, and gave rise to a long contest, which happily terminated in the libel-act passed in the year 1790; which has fixed the liberty of the press on the firmest foundation, by giving the jury authority in cases of libel, to pronounce a verdict from a consideration of all the circumstances of the case. Let it be remembered that the British nation is chiefly indebted for this act to the patriotic exertions of Mr. Fox.

In the year 1771, on a vacancy of the office of lord-chancellor, his majesty was pleased to offer the great seal to lord Mansfield, who however declined accepting it. In 1776, his nephew, lord Stormont, married; and on this event lord Mansfield, seeing himself at an advanced age without children, obtained for himself the dignity of an earldom, to descend to the heirs male of that nobleman.

An act of parliament passing in 1780, which had for its object to extend the principle of toleration, excited in the minds of some ignorant or deluded persons an idea, that it would afford dangerous privileges and encouragement to the Roman-catholics; and this notion produced in London the most disgraceful riot that ever agitated a civilised country. A vast mob assembled in St. George's Fields: which, after proceeding in a tumultuous manner to the parliament-house with a petition against the obnoxious bill, dispersed in different parties about the metropolis; and for three days, and as many nights, not only committed horrid and unexampled devastations against the chapels, and the houses of the principal professors of the Romish religion, but even destroyed several of the gaols, and thus liberated the prisoners, and directed their savage and brutal violence against the residences of the great supporters of law and government. Lord Mansfield was in this respect too conspicuous a character to escape the danger. His house, with all its contents, was reduced to a heap of ashes; his lordship himself escaping only with his life: and the destruction of his ~~inestimable~~ collection of books and manuscripts, on this

disastrous occasion, must for ever be deplored as an irreparable loss to society. With a true magnanimity, however, and a consciousness that the infinitely greatest part of his loss was of such a nature as money could not restore, his lordship declined to accept any pecuniary compensation from the national justice; and behaved with such dignified moderation, that even his bitterest enemies were ashamed of their violence.

After holding his high office for thirty-two years, perhaps with greater reputation and splendour to himself and advantage to his country than any of his predecessors, lord Mansfield found in the warnings of age and bodily infirmities powerful inducements to resign; which he accordingly did in the summer of 1788. On this event, he received a very affectionate and pathetic address from the bar, signed by the counsel who had practised in the court of king's-bench during some part of the period in which he presided there; regretting with a just sensibility the loss of a magistrate whose conspicuous and exalted talents conferred dignity upon the profession of the law, whose enlightened and regular administration of justice made its duties less difficult and laborious, and whose manners rendered them pleasant and respectable.

His lordship's advanced and very industrious life left him now the prospect of but a few years of that tranquil retirement which his merits, and his services to his country, made it the universal wish that he should be long able to enjoy. After thus spending little more than four years, (during the whole of which term, amidst the decay of his corporeal vigour, that of his mind remained unabated to his last hour,) he died on the 20th of March, 1793, at the great age of eighty-eight; and a few days afterwards, was buried in Westminster-abbey.

Like all other truly great men, lord Mansfield was equally so, in his moral and his professional character. He was a sincere Christian, without either bigotry or hypocrisy. He frequently received the sacrament, both before and after he was ultimately confined to his house

by infirmity; and there was constantly that decorum, that exemplary regularity, to be seen in every department of his household, which would have done credit to the palace of an archbishop.

Considering his lordship's judicial decisions separately, it will appear that on all occasions he was perfectly master of the case before him; and apprised of every principle of law, and every former adjudication, immediately or remotely applicable to its elucidation. Considering them collectively, they form a complete code of jurisprudence on some of the more important branches of our law; a system generally founded on principles equally liberal and just, admirably suited to the genius and circumstance of the age, and happily blending the venerable doctrines of the old law, with the learning and refinement of modern times: the work of a mind nobly gifted by nature, and informed with every kind of learning which could serve for use and ornament.

His great wisdom shed an uncommon lustre over his admonitions, his advice, and his decisions in the public courts; and gave them their due weight, which they still retain. In a word, the earl of Mansfield will be admired and revered as long as the love of our excellent laws, as long as the fascinations of eloquence, shall be deemed worthy of pre-eminence, or possess any charms to please.

SIR WILLIAM JONES.

Born 1746. — Died 1794.

From 20th George II. to 35th George III.

IN the life and fortune of sir William Jones, there is much to excite the emulation of ingenuous youth, — in his character and conduct, to interest and engage the affections. The mediocrity of his original condition sheds

a lustre on his future advancement ; while the noble and pious purposes to which he applied his vast acquirements in knowledge and learning may successfully be urged, to check or to shame the cavils of the sceptical, and the scoffs of the profane. He will ever remain an exalted proof, that the highest intellectual attainments are not incompatible with the faithful discharge of the relative duties, — with the duties of religion, and with a firm belief in its doctrines and precepts ; but rather that they tend to strengthen and to invigorate each and all. In this respect, indeed, the most illustrious names that this country has to boast — BACON, NEWTON, and LOCKE, are enrolled on the same side ; for these men all attested the truth of christianity, and directed their lives by its laws.

The subject of this brief memoir, who was born on the 28th of September, 1746, was the only son of William Jones, esq. F. R. S., a native of Anglesea, who becoming a teacher of the mathematics in London, acquired considerable celebrity, and ranked among his friends almost every person distinguished for the sciences, in which he himself excelled. He married the daughter of a citizen of London, of the name of Nix, a woman in every respect worthy of such a husband and such a son. Scarcely had the latter reached his third year, when his father died, leaving him with a sister to the sole care of his mother ; who imbibing the love of science, for which her husband had been famous, was eminently qualified to superintend the early education of her son, in which her success was equal to her most sanguine wishes. By the time he was four years old, we are informed, he could read any English book, without hesitation ; and while he was acquiring the elements of learning, the cultivation of his memory, a matter of the utmost importance at an early period of life, was diligently attended to, by making him repeat select speeches from Shakspeare, and pieces from Gay and other good poets. Fond of acquiring information, even in his infant years, his mother stimulated his

industry by frequently directing him, when he asked questions on particular subjects, to "read, and you will know."

When he had completed his seventh year, it was thought proper to place him at Harrow school, under the tuition of Dr. Thackeray. Here he was said for a time, to have been more distinguished for industry than for the display of any extraordinary talents; and having the misfortune to fracture his thigh-bone, when he had been only two years in this seminary, he was in consequence confined at home for twelve months. His mother now resumed her "delightful task;" and if his progress in classical learning was suspended, he certainly improved his taste, and laid in a competent store of general knowledge under her superintendence.

On his return to school, he was put into the same class with those whom he had left a year before. This of necessity obliged him to double his diligence, or to appear inferior to his fellows. The mind of Jones could not brook degradation: all his energies were roused, not only to rival but excel; and in a few months he reached the head of his class. At twelve he entered on the study of the Greek; and daily rose in the estimation of his master and his school-mates, for the elegance of his compositions and his knowledge of the classics.

So tenacious was his memory, that on one occasion, he wrote out Shakspeare's *Tempest*, correctly, without book; and afterwards acted the part of Prospero. At another time, he composed a dramatic piece on the story of *Meleager* for the amusement of his companions, with whom his good-nature made him as acceptable as his talents rendered him respected. Plays, versification, speechifying, every thing in short that could mark genius or industry, alternately claimed his regard; but these objects only engaged his leisure hours; for to a critical knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, he now added an acquaintance with the rudiments of Hebrew and Arabic, improved himself in French and

Italian; and in order to vary his studies, amused himself with botany, drawing, and other sciences, or accomplishments befitting his age. His future character likewise now began to develope itself—firmness, decision, benevolence of heart, a hatred of baseness, and a love of liberty, shone conspicuous in all that he said or did.

At the age of seventeen, his friends felt anxious to fix his destination in life. Some advised the profession of the law, in which he was afterwards illustrious; but an academic education was judged a proper preliminary for this, or any other pursuit; and accordingly he was entered of University college, Oxford, in 1764.

After a few months' residence, he was elected a scholar on the foundation of his college; and finding himself more advanced in classical and polite literature than most of the young men of his standing, he felt himself at liberty to follow the bias of his own inclination; and the oriental languages, fortunately for his fame, soon attracted his undivided regard. By the assistance of a native of Aleppo, whom he met with in London, he acquired the pronunciation of Arabic; and Persic next fell under his unwearied application.

Happy as he probably considered himself in a place where every facility is given to the lover of learning, his filial duty made him solicitous to relieve his mother from the heavy expense of supporting him longer than could be avoided; and accordingly he accepted an invitation to be tutor to lord Althorpe, now earl Spencer. In this capacity, his time was divided between London and Wimbledon, in the most agreeable society. Here he first saw Miss Shipley, in the sequel lady Jones, and here he formed the plan of his "Commentaries on Asiatic Poetry."

Being elected a fellow of his college in 1766, next year he accompanied the Spencer family to Spa; and about the same time is said to have decided in favour of the bar, as a profession, from reading Fortescue, *De laudibus Le-*

gum Angliæ. Fortuitous circumstances often turn the balance for life!

His fame as an oriental scholar already stood so high, that he was solicited, and at last prevailed on to undertake the life of Nadir Shah from an eastern manuscript into French, for the use of the king of Denmark. This difficult task he performed with his usual felicity, but without any adequate reward. In allusion to this, he afterwards remarked, with much truth and force of expression, that "unless a man can assert his own independence in active life, it will avail him little to be favoured by the learned, esteemed by the eminent, or recommended even to kings." The pursuits of literature, however, did not prevent the young law-student from qualifying himself for his adopted profession. Such indeed was the versatility of his talents and the span of his mind, that they could embrace various and even discordant objects, and bring them all to bear on the same point. Two years after he had entered of the Temple, namely in 1772, he published a small volume of poems, chiefly translated from the Asiatic languages, to which he added two prose Dissertations on Eastern Poetry, and On the Arts commonly called Imitative. In 1774, appeared his "Commentaries on Asiatic Poetry," which had been begun, as already noticed, when he was in the family of earl Spencer, and had access to his noble library. The same year he was called to the bar; and for a time gave up polite literature, except as far as it might render him a better lawyer or a more accomplished pleader. By dint of perseverance, he gradually rose to reputation; and being appointed a commissioner of bankrupts, he snatched every moment of disposable time, in order to devote it to the arts he loved. Our limits do not allow an enumeration of all the detached pieces with which he favoured the public. His translations of the orations of Isæus, in causes concerning the succession to property at Athens, with learned notes, and a commentary, obtained him the admiration and applause of every judge of classical erudition. This

might be said to be in the line of his profession; but a Latin Ode to Liberty, which appeared soon after, under the title of *Julii Melesigoni* (Gulielmus Jonesius) *ad libertatem*, very probably had an unfavourable influence on his views of obtaining a seat, on the bench of Indian judicature. From the very commencement indeed of the ill-judged contest between Great Britain and America, he avowed a decided opposition to the measures pursued by the mother-country; and this was not likely to recommend him to the men then in power. Though Mr. Jones was one of the brightest ornaments of the university of Oxford, of which lord North was chancellor, the premier rather showed him a good-natured civility than any zeal to promote his interest. A vacant seat on the bench of Fort William, in Bengal, was supplied in opposition to his claims in 1780; and he was likewise about the same time disappointed in his pretensions to represent his alma mater. Indeed he found the influence of administration too strong to be opposed in the university, and he declined the contest the day before the election. It was not, however, the character of Jones to despond: he had formed his views, he had matured his plans, and he knew that if he lived, some time or other they would succeed, because they were consistent.

The dreadful riots in London in 1780, of which Mr. Jones was an eye-witness, drew from his pen a pamphlet "on the legal mode of suppressing riots, with a constitutional plan of future defence." This year he lost his mother, whom he characterises, and justly, "as the best of women." About the same time, it appears from a memorandum, published by his biographer lord Teignmouth, that he had resolved to learn no more rudiments of any kind, but to perfect himself in the languages he had already acquired — "Greek, Latin, Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Hebrew, Arabic, Persic, Turkish, German, and English, as the means of obtaining a more accurate knowledge of history, arts, and sciences."

What a list of acquisitions for a man not much turned of thirty years of age !

In 1781, he found leisure to complete his translation of " the Moallakat, or seven Arabian poems which were suspended on the temple of Mecca ;" and to satisfy the public that he did not neglect his own particular profession, he published about the same period, " an Essay on the Law of Bailments;" a production which drew from Gibbon this elegant compliment — " Its author," says he, " is perhaps the only lawyer who is at once acquainted with the year-books of Westminster, the commentaries of Ulpian, the attic pleadings of Isæus, and the sentences of Persian and Arabian cadhis." His translation of an " Arabian poem on the Mahommedan laws of succession to the property of intestates," which soon followed, showed how well he was qualified for the station to which he aspired, with well directed aim and industry.

Party running very high in 1782, and societies being formed to procure a more equal representation in the commons house of parliament, Mr. Jones, from the predilections he had shown, may naturally be supposed to have taken an active part in such measures. In fact, he wrote for the society for constitutional information, a " Dialogue between a farmer and a country gentleman, on the principles of government," which was printed and published with great industry in England, and was translated into Welsh and circulated by Dr. Shipley, dean of St. Asaph, in the principality. For this, the dean, afterwards his brother-in-law, was indicted ; when Mr. Jones avowed himself the author, and strenuously maintained, that every position was strictly conformable to the laws and constitution of England. This probably might be so ; yet it is not always safe to discuss abstract principles, or to contend for theoretic rights, to the utmost extent that they may be legally carried. We know, however, that he was rather drawn into the vortex of party politics, than courted any distinction of this nature. He

was more delighted, as has been well observed of him, "in missing no opportunity of gathering the flowers which chance presented, or of displaying for the entertainment of his friends the store which he had collected." His "Muse Recalled," written on the nuptials of his noble pupil lord Althorpe, and his "Damsels of Cardigan," produced during one of his first circuits, attest the amiable bias of his mind.

Disaster and defeat having accompanied every attempt to subjugate America, a change of administration took place in 1782, and lord Shelburne came into power; whose politics agreeing with the avowed principles of Mr. Jones, he at last obtained the object of his anxious and protracted solicitude—a seat in the supreme court of justice at Fort William; owing, it is said, to the more immediate interference of lord Ashburton, when the honour of knighthood was likewise conferred on him. Soon after, he married the lady to whom he had been so long attached, Miss Shipley, eldest daughter of the bishop of St. Asaph; and as was neatly observed on the occasion, "secured two of the first objects of human pursuit, those of ambition, and those of love."

In a few weeks he embarked for India; and during the voyage, his active mind was engaged in forming the plan of his future life, and in arranging the best means of rendering his studies subservient to his duties. "When I was on my voyage," says he, "to this country, which I had long and ardently desired to visit, I found one evening on inspecting the observations of the day, that India lay before us, and Persia on our left, whilst a breeze from Arabia blew nearly on our stern. A situation so pleasing in itself, and to me so new, [could not fail to awaken a train of reflections in a mind which had been early accustomed to contemplate with delight the eventful histories and agreeable fictions of this eastern world—the nurse of science, the scene of glorious actions, fertile in the productions of human genius, abounding in natural wonders, and infinitely diversified in the forms of religion

and governments, in the laws, manners, customs, and languages, as well as in the features and complexions of men."

His reception at Calcutta, where his fame had preceded him, was such as must have gratified the best feelings of the human heart. To be allowed the first scholar in the literature of that country which he now first visited ; to have brought with him a high character for independence, probity, and every moral and religious virtue, were such recommendations as could not be overlooked, and which at once secured the means of extensive utility. Conscious, however, that individual exertions must ever be limited in their operations, he soon projected the Asiatic Literary Institution, which first assembled in January, 1784, and of which he was unanimously elected president.

In this capacity, he delivered eleven anniversary discourses, all distinguished for learning and research ; and elucidating some portion of history ; or throwing some new light on the sciences, manners, and institutions, civil and religious, of the peninsula of India. Mr. Hastings, then governor-general of Bengal, a man of a congenial turn of mind, warmly patronised the infant establishment, the Transactions of which have long been before the public ; and afford the most ample testimony of the learning, acuteness, and perseverance of the members of the Asiatic society.

But sir William Jones did not overlook the more important objects of his mission. Soon after his arrival in India, he set about studying the Sanscrit, in order not only to qualify himself the better to discharge the duties of a judge, and that he might not be biassed or deceived by the glosses and misrepresentations of the professors of the Hindoo law ; but that his country might be benefited by having a digest of the legal polity of India, which might vie with that of Justinian. Lord Cornwallis, who had succeeded Mr. Hastings, entered into the plan with zeal ; and, what is most remarkable, the learned pro-

fessors of the Braminical faith themselves approved and admired the undertaking, and were satisfied that the exposition of their own laws should be left to the direction of a christian and a European.

About this period, 1790, sir William Jones says, "if the whole legislature of Britain were to offer me a different station from that which I now fill, I should most gratefully and respectfully decline it. The character of an ambitious judge is, in my opinion, very dangerous to public justice; and if I were a sole legislator, it should be enacted, that every judge, as well as every bishop, should remain for life in the place which he first accepted. This is not the language of a cynic, but of a man who loves his friends, his country, and mankind; who knows the short duration of human life, recollects that he has lived four-and-forty years, and has learned to be contented. My private life is similar to that which you remember: seven hours a day, on an average, are occupied by my duties as a magistrate*, and one hour by the new Indian digest; for one hour in the evening I read aloud to lady Jones."

Such is the unvarnished picture he draws of his mind and avocations, in a letter to a friend. Always amiable and always useful, happy in his situation, blest in his conjugal ties, he seems now to have reached the greatest exaltation of human felicity; but the health of lady Jones declining, she was obliged to return to England in 1793; and they parted to meet no more. It was his intention, indeed, to have followed her in two years at farthest; but he was particularly anxious, before he left India, to complete the Digest of its laws, with the assistance of the pundits, who alone could explain or remove his doubts. It must be regretted, however, that the completion of this great work, to which he devoted his best attention, was frustrated by the decree of the Eternal.

* Seven hours to law, to soothing slumber seven,
Ten to the world allot, and all to heaven.

In the beginning of 1794, he published a Translation of the Ordinances of Menu, comprising a system of duties religious and civil, and which would have formed a proper introduction to the Digest. This was the last work to which he put a finishing hand : his valuable life was now drawing towards a close ; and the circumstances attending it, cannot be detailed in any other language than Lord Teignmouth's. It would be almost sacrilege to alter or omit a word.

“ On the evening of the 20th of April, or nearly about that date, after prolonging his walk to a late hour, during which he had imprudently remained in conversation, in an unwholesome situation, he called upon the writer of these sheets, and complained of aguish symptoms, mentioning his intention to take some medicine, and repeating jocularly an old proverb :

An ague in the spring
Is med'cine for a king.

“ He had no suspicion at the time of the real nature of his indisposition, which proved in fact to be a complaint common in Bengal, — an inflammation in the liver. The disorder was, however, soon discovered by the penetration of the physician, who after two or three days was called in to his assistance ; but it was then advanced too far to yield to the efficacy of the medicines usually prescribed. The progress of the complaint was uncommonly rapid, and terminated fatally on the 27th of April, 1794. On the morning of that day, his attendants, alarmed at the evident symptoms of approaching dissolution, came precipitately to call the friend who has now the melancholy task of recording the mournful event. Not a moment was lost in repairing to his house. He was lying on his bed in a posture of meditation ; and the only symptom of remaining life was a small degree of motion in the heart, which, after a few seconds, ceased ; and he expired without a pang or a groan. His bodily

sufferings, from the complacency of his features, and the ease of his attitude, could not have been severe : and his mind must have derived consolation from those sources where he had been in the habit of seeking it, and where alone, in our last moments, it can ever be found."

Such was the end of sir William Jones, in the 48th year of his age ; but who, if life is to be estimated by the beneficial purposes to which it ought to be applied, had reached the largest span of human existence. In every thing that constitutes excellence, he presents the brightest example for imitation ; and whilst his attainments in learning and virtue may well shame the indolent and the worthless, they will at the same time operate as an encouragement to the diligent and the well-disposed ; and show that nothing is insurmountable to persevering industry, in the path which a correct judgment has first prescribed.

In this brief sketch of his life, some of his principal publications have been indicated. His entire works make six volumes quarto, or thirteen octavo. It was much less his ambition to invent than to arrange. As an original writer, he is less distinguished than as a general scholar, a deep linguist, a sound lawyer, a good man, and a sincere Christian.

Let his own words, written in his Bible, bear testimony to his belief in Revelation. " I have carefully and regularly perused these Holy Scriptures ; and am of opinion that the volume, independently of its Divine origin, contains more sublimity, purer morality, more important history, and finer strains of eloquence, than can be collected from all other books, in whatever language they may have been written."

The death of sir William Jones was lamented by the learned of all nations, and many tributes were paid to his memory, both in verse and prose. A beautiful monument by Flaxman, in the chapel of the University college, records his connection with that society ; another

monument to his memory is to be seen in St. Mary's, the University church; a third in St. Pauls', besides his statue in Calcutta; the two last at the expense of the India Company. Each has an appropriate inscription; but with the EPITAPH, which it appears he wrote for himself, not long before his dissolution, we shall conclude our short memoir. It is worth a volume of general panegyric from any other pen: and may the character it depicts be an object of emulation to every reader!

Here was deposited,
 the mortal part of a man,
 who feared God, but not death;
 and maintained independence,
 but sought not riches:
 who thought
 none below him, but the base and unjust;
 none above him, but the wise and virtuous:
 who loved
 his parents, kindred, friends, country,
 with an ardour,
 which was the chief source of
 all his pleasures and all his pains;
 and who, having devoted
 his life to their service,
 and to
 the improvement of his mind,
 resigned it calmly,
 giving glory to his Creator,
 wishing peace on earth,
 and with good-will to all creatures,
 on the (27th) day of (*April*),
 in the year of our Blessed Redeemer
 one thousand seven hundred and (*ninety-four*.)

LORD VISCOUNT NELSON OF THE NILE,
DUKE OF BRONTÉ, IN SICILY &c.

Born 1758. — Died 1805.

From 32d George II. to 46th George III.

It is with a proud delight that the natives of this highly favoured isle contemplate its "wooden walls," — our legitimate and best defence: — it is with a fond enthusiasm that persons of all ages regard the daring sons of the ocean, who have carried our glory to the highest pitch, and supported the honour of their country in every clime. And though we have had many gallant admirals in former as well as modern times, — though the late extended and protracted war produced naval heroes in abundance, on whose exploits posterity will love to dwell, and the enemies of Britain "tremble while they read," it may safely be asserted, that in almost every quality which constitutes the accomplished commander, — coolness, intrepidity, judgment, patriotism, and self-devotion, no one has equalled Nelson, no one can ever go beyond him. With Alfred the Great, the first founder of the navy of this country, our volume commenced; and therefore it cannot more properly conclude, than with the subject of this biographical sketch.

Horatio Nelson was born September 29th, 1758, at Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, of which parish, Edmund, his father, was rector. His mother's name was Suckling; and she was related to the Walpole family. But though his connections on both sides were truly respectable; his public actions, which are the best and the only panegyric he requires, independent of every adventitious circumstance, were sufficient to ennoble him. It appears that he received his early education, the only he ever had,

except from his own application, first at the grammar-school of Norwich, and afterwards at North Walsham.

During the Christmas vacation of 1770, when he was only twelve years of age, we are told, that finding his uncle, captain Maurice Suckling, was appointed to the *Raisonné* of sixty-four guns, he requested that his father, who was then absent, might be importuned to write in his behalf, that he might be taken under his protection. The captain had promised to provide for one of his nephews ; but on receiving this application, he replied, " What has poor Horace done, who is so weak, that he above all the rest should be sent to rough it out at sea ? But let him come ; and the first time we go into action, a cannon-ball may knock off his head, and provide for him at once." The apparent delicacy of his constitution in reality ill agreed with the indications he had already given of a noble spirit ; but it must be confessed, that he did not make a wrong estimate of his powers, young as he was, when he chose the naval profession. He joined his uncle's ship, then lying in the Medway, in the spring of 1771 ; but captain Suckling being soon after appointed to a guard-ship, he considered this station as too inactive for his nephew, and therefore sent him in a merchant's vessel to the West Indies, under the care of an officer in whom he placed confidence. " I came back," observed Nelson, " a practical seaman, with a horror of the royal navy, and with a saying then common, ' aft the most honour, forward the better man.' " Indeed when he afterwards joined his uncle, it was some weeks before he could be reconciled to a ship of war ; but the captain rightly appreciating his character, gave him such encouragement, as overcame his antipathies, and assisted to qualify him to rise in his profession.

When the expedition of discovery towards the North Pole, under commodore Phipps, sailed next year, Nelson had used all his interest to be permitted to go with captain Lutwidge, in the *Carcass*, as his cockswain. In this object of his ambition he succeeded ; and during the

voyage, displayed some of his characteristic traits. We can mention only the following. One night, when they were surrounded by ice, the young cockswain and a shipmate, undaunted by their danger, stole from the vessel to hunt a bear. They were soon missed; and the signal was made for their return, which they were obliged to obey, and much to their mortification, without securing their prey. "What reason could you have," said captain Lutwidge to Nelson, "for hunting a bear?" "Sir," replied he, "I wished to get the skin for my father."

The polar expedition having failed, soon after Nelson's return he was recommended to captain Farmer of the *Sea-Horse*, of twenty guns, then going out to India, in the squadron under sir Edward Hughes, and was stationed in the fore-top, at watch and watch. The master soon perceiving the boy's zeal and activity, procured him to be placed on the quarter-deck, and rated as a midshipman. During the voyage his constitution improved; but the climate of India did not agree with him, and he was obliged to return to Europe in 1776, in such a state of weakness, that he attributed the preservation of his life to the kind attentions of captain Pigot, in whose vessel he came home. The finest energies of mind will sink with an enfeebled body; but though Nelson's prospects at present were sufficiently gloomy, he did not despond. He turned from the dark side of the picture; and, according to his own declarations at a subsequent period of life, "a sudden glow of patriotism was kindled within me, and presented my king and country as my patrons. Well then, I exclaimed, I will be a hero, and, confiding in Providence, I will brave every danger!" From that hour, as he often observed to his friend captain Hardy, "a radiant orb was suspended before his mind's eye, which urged him onward to renown."

Great minds have always a tincture of enthusiasm in their composition; and Nelson's had an ample share.

When he reached England he had the pleasure to find his uncle filling the office of comptroller of the navy:

and was soon appointed fourth lieutenant of the Worcester, of sixty-four guns, then about to sail for Gibraltar. On the 8th of April, 1777, he passed his examination, while captain Suckling sat at the head of the table ; and finding that he acquitted himself with a high degree of credit, immediately introduced him to the examining captains as his nephew ; observing, when they expressed their surprise that they had not been made acquainted with this circumstance before, “ No, I did not wish the youngster to be favoured. I felt convinced that he would pass a good examination, and you see I have not been disappointed.”

Next day Nelson received his commission as second lieutenant of the Lowestoffe frigate, captain Locker, then fitting out for Jamaica. After a year's service, he was removed to the Bristol, the flag-ship of sir Peter Parker. He was subsequently made commander, at the age of twenty-one ; and a few months afterwards, was made post into the Hinchinbrook, of twenty-eight guns.

In this capacity he was employed to convoy five hundred men from Jamaica to the Spanish main, with a view of taking fort St. Juan, upon the river of that name. At the mouth of that stream his services were to have ended ; but with a spirit of enterprise peculiar to himself, he carried the men up the navigation, amidst difficulties and dangers of the first magnitude, amidst fatigues and privations which would have deterred the less resolute ; and finally the fort was captured, which however was found to be untenable.

From this expedition, which he had volunteered, he returned in a very bad state of health to Bluefield ; and being appointed to the Janus, of forty-four, he was providentially removed from this insalubrious station, and reached Jamaica, enfeebled by disease ; and, notwithstanding the care of his friends, found it absolutely necessary for the preservation of his life to revisit England.

His next appointment, after his recovery, was to the Albemarle, of twenty-eight guns, with which he was sent *to the North Seas* ; and while on this service, he gained

considerable knowledge of the soundings on the Danish coast, which eventually proved very useful to him. He was then sent to Quebec ; and while on this station, he was nearly inveigled into an imprudent match, which would have ruined his rising prospects ; but was saved by the generous interposition of a friend. Discretion, even at a more advanced period of life, was not among his valuable qualities ; yet, to the individual, it is worth almost all the rest.

At the restoration of peace, Nelson passed a few months in France ; but being appointed to the *Boreas*, of twenty-eight guns, going to the Leeward Islands, on the peace establishment, he soon fell in with a French frigate sent from Martinique for the purpose, as it was supposed, of making a survey of our West India islands. This he determined to prevent by an officious civility, in offering to accompany her ; and so completely frustrated the schemes of the French, without seeming to know them, that they gave up their object in despair.

At this time, the Americans, taking advantage of the privileges they enjoyed while British subjects, carried on an extensive trade with our West India islands. Nelson knowing that it was contrary, in the situation in which they had placed themselves, to the provisions of the navigation act, though unsupported by his superiors, seized four of their vessels at Nevis ; for which action, patriotic as it was acknowledged to be, he was exposed to much trouble and expense, but saved by the slow though effectual interposition of government, from responsibility for damages incurred.

It was at this island he became acquainted with the elegant and captivating widow of Dr. Nisbet, then only eighteen years of age, whom he married in 1787, the present duke of Clarence at his own desire giving away the bride. In a few months after his marriage, he returned to England ; but had the mortification to be kept on board at the Nore from June to November. In fact, prejudices had been raised against him by interested re-

culators, for his patriotic conduct in detecting public frauds, and in stemming the torrent of corruption in his late command; and the Admiralty for a time seem to have been blinded by their artifices. Nelson felt indignant at the treatment he had received, and seriously talked of resigning his commission; which being privately conveyed by a friend to lord Howe, produced an obliging letter from his lordship; an interview took place, and the result was, that Nelson's resentment was effectually removed, and he was presented to the king on the next levee day by the first lord of the Admiralty. Though a ship is very expensive in time of peace, he repeatedly requested of the Admiralty that "he might not be left to rust in indolence;" and was so unsuccessful that he was again meditating to retire from the service, from which, however, he was fortunately dissuaded by the remonstrances of his steady friend, lord Hood, by whose influence he was at length appointed to the *Agamemnon*, of sixty-four guns, in January, 1793. In this ship he sailed with his patron for the Mediterranean: and here he may be said to have entered on the full career of glory. He had, however, in the outset, to distinguish himself rather by his military than his naval services; but Nelson was never out of his element, and at sea or on shore he was able to inspire his men with a portion of his own spirit. Bastia fell in a great measure by his exertions; contrary to the expectations, if not the plans, of his immediate superiors, who were, however, thanked for what he had principally achieved. Calvi followed: and though he lost an eye on this occasion, his name did not even appear in the list of the wounded. "One hundred and ten days," said the hero, "I have been actually engaged at sea and on shore against the enemy: three actions against ships; two against Bastia, in my own ship; four boat actions; and two villages taken, and twelve sail of vessels burnt. I do not know that any one has done more. I have had the comfort to be always applauded by my commanders-in-chief, but never to be rewarded;

and, what is more mortifying, for service in which I have been wounded, others have been praised, who at the time were actually in bed, far from the scene of action. They have not done me justice: but never mind; *I'll have a gazette of my own.*"

In admiral Hotham's action, which took place in the Mediterranean, Nelson had a most conspicuous share; and soon after obtained a colonelcy of marines, which served to sooth his wounded spirit, and stimulated him to new deeds of glory. But, however distinguished his services might be on the present station, till Italy fell wholly under the power of France, the narrow limits of our work oblige us to omit details of many splendid actions, that produced no lasting results, and to hasten to more important transactions, which will for ever live in the annals of fame.

It was Nelson's good fortune, on leaving the Mediterranean, off the mouth of the Streights, to fall in with the Spanish fleet, and to communicate the intelligence soon after to admiral sir John Jervis, who directed him to shift his commodore's pendant on board the Captain. Next morning, the enemy's fleet, under don Joseph de Cordova, were in sight. The British had only fourteen sail of the line, with seven inferior vessels: the Spaniards had twenty-seven, besides ten frigates and a brig. Not intimidated, however, by this vast disproportion of force, the British admiral boldly passed through the Spanish line, and cut off nine of their ships, only one of which escaped. The enemy's main body, however, was still superior in numbers to the whole English squadron; and had it not been for the daring resolution of Nelson, in neglecting or perhaps disobeying a signal which would have allowed them time again to form their line, the victory might have been less decisive. Naval tactics are little adapted to the comprehension of those for whom our volume is designed; and therefore we forbear particulars, not immediately connected with the subject of this memoir. Suffice it to say, that Nelson displayed the same

intrepidity, energy, zeal, decision, and promptitude of judgment on this as on other occasions. Indeed, these qualities were his striking characteristics. He boarded two of the enemy's largest ships in person, exclaiming, as he led the way to take possession of the second, the *San Joseph*, "Westminster Abbey, or Victory!" On the quarter-deck of this ship, the Spanish captain presented his sword, and informed Nelson that "the admiral was dying of his wounds below." The Captain was at this time a perfect wreck, lying on board her two prizes, and several of the other ships were nearly unmanageable; but don Cordova, though he had more ships, little damaged, than the British had begun the action with, found his officers disinclined to renew the fight; and they returned into port without farther molestation.

Before the news of this splendid victory had been carried to England, Nelson had been made rear-admiral; and on this occasion he received the order of the Bath. Fame and congratulation now attended him; and perhaps nothing was dearer to his heart than a letter from his venerable father, in which he says: "I thank God with all the fervor of a grateful soul for the mercies he has most graciously bestowed on me, in preserving you amidst the imminent perils which so lately threatened your life, at every moment. The height of glory, to which your professional judgment, united with a proper degree of bravery, guarded by Providence, has raised you, few sons, my dear child, attain to, and fewer fathers live to see. The tears of joy have involuntarily trickled down my furrowed cheek. Who could stand the force of such general congratulation? The name and services of Nelson have sounded throughout the city of Bath, from the common ballad-singer to the public theatre." The writer of these pages again witnessed the paternal emotion of the good old divine, in the same city, when news arrived of the battle of Copenhagen. What a triumph for a fond father!

But to return; Nelson's next appointment was to command the inner squadron blockading Cadiz; in which

service there was more hazard than glory. But he was soon employed where greater scope was allowed to his exertions, yet where all his skill and bravery were found unavailing. In an attack on Santa Cruz, in the isle of Teneriffe, where considerable treasure had been landed from a Manilla ship, and to carry off which he had been despatched with four sail of the line and three frigates, he was completely unsuccessful, notwithstanding the heroic bravery displayed by almost every person attached to this expedition. The Spaniards had prepared for a formidable resistance; and though every thing was achieved that British officers and sailors could perform, Nelson could not escape censure for landing under the circumstances he did. In stepping ashore he received a shot through the right elbow, and fell. An amputation of the right arm was obliged to be performed. "I have still," observed the hero, "my legs left, and one arm. Tell the surgeon to make haste and get his instruments; the sooner the operation is performed the better." On this occasion, young Nisbet, the son of lady Nelson, contributed to save his life.

The English who had effected their landing, scarcely amounting to three hundred, in the teeth of upwards of eight thousand Spaniards, were, however, allowed to re-embark with their arms, in consequence of the determined spirit they displayed. Nelson wrote to thank the governor of Santa Cruz for his humanity; and actually was entrusted with the despatches for the Spanish court, which gave the first intelligence of his own defeat.

It appears that Nelson himself was deeply mortified at this failure; but his kind reception at home soon restored him to himself and to his country. Honours and congratulations attended him for what he had done; and happy in his domestic relations, his private character as a husband was yet without a stain. When he was appointed to the Vanguard, and ordered to rejoin earl St. Vincent early in the ensuing year, one of his last expressions to lady Nelson was, "my own ambition is satisfied; but I go to raise

you to the rank in which I have long wished to see you." It had been well if his subsequent conduct had been in unison with such noble sentiments, as far as relates to the immediate object to whom they applied.

In a short time after joining the fleet, he was despatched by lord St. Vincent with a small squadron, to endeavour to ascertain the destination of a formidable expedition fitting out at Toulon. In this service he encountered a violent storm; during which, the French fleet, it afterwards appeared, must have passed within a few leagues of his squadron. Nelson having received a reinforcement under commodore Troubridge, proceeded in quest of the enemy to Malta, which he found they had left, after a very short stay. Their destination was then supposed to be for Egypt; and thither Nelson steered his course; but they had not been there; nor, during the whole voyage, did he receive the slightest intelligence respecting them. Irritated and baffled, he returned to Sicily; and soon afterwards learned that the enemy's fleet had been seen, about a month before, sailing eastward from Candia. The British admiral was now convinced that their object must be Egypt; and with every sail set, he returned to that coast, where, on the 1st of August, a signal was made for the French fleet. We are told that Nelson for some days and nights previous had scarcely taken food or sleep. He now ordered his dinner to be served, and preparations to be made for battle, observing to his officers, as they rose from table, that "before the same time to-morrow, he should have gained a peerage, or Westminster Abbey."

It would probably have been happy for the world, — happy for Bonaparte himself, if Nelson had come up with him before he debarked his troops: it might have prevented years of misery, — oceans of blood from being shed, and the tyrant himself from being cooped up as a prisoner on a little isle, while his ambition grasped the globe. Bonaparte, however, had effected a landing some time before, while the fleet under Brueys remained unaccountably moored in Aboukir Bay, where he had taken

as strong and as judicious a position, as circumstances would permit. But nothing could resist the well-concerted plans of Nelson, in which he was zealously supported by the devotion of both officers and men. "First gain the victory," said he, "and then make the best use of it you can." The French and the English fleets were nearly equal in the number of ships of the line, that is, thirteen each; but the former had a great superiority in men and guns. As the squadron advanced, a steady fire was opened by the enemy on our ships, which was received in silence. Captain Foley led the fleet in the *Goliath*, to double on the French line, which was thus placed between two fires, and victory was not long doubtful. In less than a quarter of an hour after the action began, the two first ships of the French line had been dismasted, the third, fourth, and fifth, had been taken possession of soon after eight in the evening, about two hours after the commencement of the fight. About nine, the *L'Orient*, the French admiral's ship, was on fire, and in less than an hour blew up with a horrible explosion. Brueys, like a brave man, and worthy of a better fate and a better cause, after receiving three different wounds, was nearly cut in two by a fourth, but desired to be left to die on deck, and did not witness the catastrophe.

A pause followed: both sides suspended the firing for about three minutes; and the interval may well be supposed to have presented, both to the eye and the mind, one of the most awfully sublime scenes that imagination can possibly conceive. The fiery fragments of the ship, after being carried to a great height in the air, were falling in all directions; and the shades of night were overcome by the glare of the conflagration.

The battle was renewed with all its fury against the ships to the leeward of the centre, which were still unconquered, and continued till about three in the morning. At day-break, only two of the French line had their colours flying; and in the course of the forenoon they

cut their cables and stood out to sea, accompanied by two frigates, but they all subsequently fell into our hands.

Of thirteen sail of the line, nine were taken and two burnt. Our loss in men amounted in killed and wounded to eight hundred and ninety-five. Three thousand one hundred and five of the French, including the wounded, were sent on shore by cartel, and five thousand two hundred and twenty-five perished in the fight. The British admiral himself was wounded in the action; but though the surgeon desired him to keep quiet, to the astonishment of his crew, he soon re-appeared on the quarter-deck.

No victory on record had been more glorious or more complete than this; and Nelson received every compliment, every honour, and every reward, that grateful nations could confer on him. The grand seignior, the czar, the kings of Naples and Sardinia, acknowledged and rewarded his services; and in England he was raised to the peerage, as he had predicted, by the title of baron Nelson of the Nile and of Burnham Thorpe in Norfolk, with a pension of two thousand pounds per annum, for three lives.

With all his merits, however, Nelson was unquestionably a very vain man; and he suffered himself to be intoxicated with the poison of flattery. What Capua had been to Annibal, Naples was now to the hero of the Nile. He stained his public character, he destroyed his private happiness for ever, by an unfortunate attachment to a woman of intrigue, whose husband then filled a public station at that court; and, while his fleet lay in the Bay of Naples, several other of his transactions admit neither of palliation nor excuse. It is the duty of the biographer to encourage by example, or to warn by contrast: even the splendour of Nelson's actions must not be allowed to give a false colour to his failings or his vices.

Arriving in England in November, 1800, the following January he was sent to the Baltic, as second in command *under sir Hyde Parker*, though indeed he was little qua-

lified for a subordinate station; and on this occasion he certainly filled the first in reality, though not in name.

The Danes were to be detached from the armed neutrality, which had been entered into by some of the northern nations, against the interests of this country; and relying on the strength of their position, they were tempted in an evil hour to oppose the resistance of their Crown batteries, at the entrance of the harbour of Copenhagen, to the invincible skill and courage of the British navy. Upwards of one hundred pieces of cannon were mounted on those batteries, and a line of twenty-five two-deckers, frigates, and floating vessels were moored across the mouth of the port. Nelson finding negotiation in vain, approached this formidable barrier, on the 2d of April, with twelve sail of the line, all the frigates and small craft: the commander-in-chief, with the remainder of the fleet, lay about four miles off. The action commenced about ten in the morning; and at one in the afternoon, the scale of victory remained suspended. Of all the engagements in which he had been concerned, this, according to Nelson's own account, was the most terrible. "It is warm work," said he; "and this day may be the last to any of us at a moment; but mark you," added the hero, "I would not be elsewhere for thousands."

Just at this crisis, sir Hyde Parker made signal for the action to cease, which Nelson at first disregarded; but being repeated, he observed to his captain, "as you know I have only one eye, I have a right to be blind sometimes. Hoist mine," added he, emphatically, "for closer battle: that is the way I answer such signals. Nail mine to the mast!" It seems that admiral Graves, who was third in command, followed the example of Nelson — dangerous as it regards discipline, but not likely to be of frequent occurrence!

About two o'clock, part of the Danish line had struck, part was adrift, and part had ceased to fire; but still the battle was kept up, and might have ultimately been ruinous to the British. With an intuitive presence of mind,

Nelson seized the happy moment to open a negociation, — a suspension of arms for twenty-four hours was agreed on, which was employed to work the fleet out of the intricate channel, in which it had been entangled; and confirming the impression he had made in battle by his negociations with the crown-prince on shore, Nelson concluded, next day, an armistice for fourteen weeks, during which the czar Paul ceased to live; and the northern confederacy fell to the ground.

Nelson's fame now stood very high as a politician, as well as a naval commander; and for this signal service he was raised to the dignity of viscount. Thus honours were doled out to him, step by step, with a sparing hand; but when this was noticed in parliament on another occasion, Mr. Pitt justly observed, "that Nelson's fame would be co-equal with the British name, when no man would think of asking, whether he had been created a baron, a viscount, or an earl."

The arrogance of the ruler of France having led him to prepare a flotilla at Boulogne, for the invasion of England, and the empty menace being entertained where it ought to have been despised, Nelson was next sent with a squadron on that station. Here he was unsuccessful; for the vessels of the enemy being moored by the bottom to the shore, and fastened with chains to each other, it was not possible to bring off those which struck, even if the action could have been continued.

The peace, or rather truce, of Amiens, soon followed; but it is well known was of short duration; and on the renewal of hostilities, Nelson went out as commander-in-chief to the Mediterranean. With indefatigable perseverance, he watched the Toulon fleet for nearly two years, a kind of service little adapted to his enterprising mind; but having at length found means to elude his vigilance, they formed a junction with the Spaniards, and ran for the West Indies, with eighteen sail of the line besides frigates, and having twelve thousand troops on board. Nelson pursued them with ten sail of the line,

and half their number of frigates; observing to his captains, "there is just a Frenchman a-piece, leaving me for the Spaniards. When I haul down my colours, I expect you to do the same, but not till then." It was not his fortune, however, to find them; and after having re-inforced their own islands, they returned to Europe, where Nelson followed; and delivering over his squadron to admiral Cornwallis, he visited England, in order to enjoy a little relaxation. He had not, however, been a month at his seat of Merton, in Surrey, when captain Blackwood, on his way to the Admiralty with despatches, called one morning very early, and found the hero already drest. "I am sure," said Nelson, "you bring me news of the French and Spanish fleets! I think I shall have yet to be at them. Depend upon it I shall yet give M. Villeneuve a drubbing." It was as he suspected: they had liberated the squadron from Ferrol, and now amounting to thirty-four sail of the line, had got safely into Cadiz.

Like the sportsman who has once sprung game, Nelson considered the French and Spanish fleet as his proper prey; and no sooner had he offered his services to lord Barham, at the head of the Admiralty, than they were accepted, with permission to name his own officers.

In a short time he returned to Portsmouth; and when he embarked, numbers followed him to the shore, knelt down, and prayed a blessing on his endeavours in his country's cause. The wind was unfavourable, but such was the ardour of his impatience to get to the scene of action, that he worked down the Channel against every impediment, and arrived off Cadiz on the 29th of September, his birth-day, on which very day the French admiral Villeneuve had received orders to take the first opportunity of putting to sea. On bearing, however, that Nelson had taken the command, it was decided in a council of war, "that it would not be expedient to leave Cadiz, unless they had reason to believe themselves one third stronger than the British force. Nelson kept out

of sight at sea; and an American having informed Villeneuve, "that it was impossible Nelson could be with the fleet, as he had seen him only a few days before in the streets of London," which was indeed true, the French commander ventured out, and on the 19th of October, there was a signal of the enemy's being at sea. Next day it appeared as if they wished to go to the westward, which Nelson was determined to prevent. Having previously arranged his plan of attack, and enjoying the entire confidence of his officers and men, he was sure that his orders would be executed with promptitude and effect, and he calculated accordingly. The British force consisted of twenty-seven sail of the line; the enemy's of thirty-three; but their disproportion in men and metal was still much greater; besides a considerable number of the best riflemen that could be selected, who were distributed among the ships.

Nelson seems to have had a presentiment of his danger; and on the morning of the 21st wrote a prayer in his journal, followed by an extraordinary bequest, which we wish had never been recorded. He then put on the coat he always wore in action, which bore the insignia of all his orders. "In honour I gained them," observed he on this occasion, "and in honour I will die with them."

Finding that it was impossible the enemy could escape, he became uncommonly animated, exclaiming, "I shall not be contented with less than twenty of them." He now gave the ever-memorable signal, "ENGLAND EXPECTS EVERY MAN TO DO HIS DUTY;" which was received by the whole fleet with a shout of enthusiasm. "Now," said Nelson, "I can do no more. We must trust to the Great Disposer of all events and the justice of our cause: I thank God for this great opportunity of doing *my* duty;" adding to captain Blackwood, who was about to return to his own ship, "God bless you, Blackwood, I shall never see you again."

Nelson ordered his flag-ship, the *Victory*, to be steered to the bow of the *Santissima Trinidad*, "his old ac-

quaintance," as he called her, a vessel with four decks, by which he distinguished her. It was not possible, however, to break the enemy's line, without running on board one of their ships. The Victory ran on board the enemy's ship the Redoubtable, while another of our ships attacked her on the other side. Nelson, who had piously expressed a wish, "that humanity after victory might distinguish the British fleet," had twice ordered to cease firing on this ship, supposing she had struck, as her guns were silent, and she showed no flag; yet from this very vessel, the Redoubtable, he received his death. A ball fired from her mizen-top struck the epaulette on his left shoulder: he fell with his face on the deck, saying to his captain "they have done for me at last, Hardy; my backbone is shot through." Yet, notwithstanding he felt himself mortally wounded, and was in excruciating pain, his presence of mind never left him; and though amidst his sufferings, he once expressed some impatience to be released, he immediately checked himself, with saying in a softened tone, "yet one would like to live a little longer, too;" and he had the satisfaction to hear "that certainly fourteen or fifteen ships had already struck; if not more." "That is well," said the dying hero, "but I bargained for twenty;"* emphatically exclaiming, "Anchor! Hardy, anchor!" Of this he had seen the importance, from the situation of the fleet, near a hostile port and shore; and this was the last professional order this illustrious commander gave, who died, like Wolfe, in the arms of victory! As the vital tide was ebbing fast, he expressed a wish to captain Hardy that he might be buried by his father and mother, unless it should please the king to order otherwise; faintly adding, after his friend had kissed his pale cheek, as requested, "Now I am satisfied. I have done my duty. Thank God! I have done my

* Sixteen sail of the line were destroyed; four carried to Gibraltar, six were reduced to mere wrecks; and four more which had hauled off in the action, were afterwards taken by Sir Richard Strachan.

duty." These words he repeated ; and they were the last for which he found utterance.

When the news reached England, it is impossible to describe the mingled feelings that agitated every breast. Never shall I forget the impression on my own mind, when the bells of the place, from which I now write, announced at the same moment, victory and death. The emotions which the former would have excited were absorbed in the latter ; and gloom, and sorrow, and tears prevailed. Even the forms of rejoicing which afterwards followed were without joy, — in them the heart had no share : yet when we can now review the past with cooler reflection, though it might have been desired, with a feeling natural to mortals, that Nelson could have lived to enjoy the triumphs he had won, it cannot be said that he fell prematurely for his country. The victory of Trafalgar was so complete, that it left nothing more of consequence to be performed by sea, during the remainder of the war ; and probably the wishes of the hero coincided with the will of Providence, — that he should expire at the moment when his fame was at its height, and his professional glory was so bright, that it could scarcely receive an additional ray

The remains of Nelson were brought to England, and deposited with the utmost pomp that a grateful country could bestow, in St. Paul's cathedral, where a splendid monument has been erected to his memory. Leaving no immediate heir, for he never had any child by lady Nelson, his representatives enjoy the additional rank and fortune which he so richly deserved, and which probably, had his life been protracted, he might have adorned as much in peace, as he had gloriously acquired them by war.

To celebrate the praise of this greatest of our naval heroes, the poet and the writer of prose, the orator in the senate, and the divine in the pulpit, all united their varied meeds. The imperfections of the man, for which *he was answerable to his God*, were sunk in the blaze of

his public services to his country. Yet perhaps no character of him is more just and discriminating, than that composed by the late Mr. Sheridan, and inscribed on the handsome monument erected to his honour, in the Guild-hall of the metropolis, which concludes thus :

The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council
of the city of London
have caused this monument to be erected ;
not in the presumptuous hope of sustaining the departed
Hero's memory,
but to manifest their estimation of the man,
and their admiration of his deeds,
this testimony of their gratitude,
they trust, will remain as long
as their own renowned city shall exist.
The period to
NELSON'S FAME
can only be
THE END OF TIME.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE Statesman and the Politician must be long removed from the scene, before their labours and their principles can be fairly appreciated ; because their influence continues to be felt, and the impetus they have given to operate, unspent, far beyond the limits of the grave.

The names of lord NORTH, BURKE, PITT, Fox, SHERIDAN, and other eminent persons who have quitted the stage of life, since the commencement of the French Revolution, are familiar to every reader ; but none, except a determined partizan, would yet attempt to delineate their characters, or to estimate their conduct, and to award them that meed, whether of censure or applause, which an impartial posterity will infallibly bestow. In a work of general Biography, indeed, it is necessary to include certain particulars of all the more illustrious de-

ceased, in every walk of life; but in a manual of this nature, where the selection must be confined to a few, and where each individual should present something in his life and fortune to encourage or to direct youth in the path of emulation and desert, it would be wholly out of place to notice merely public characters, however transcendent their talents, and whatever effect they may have had on the destinies of nations.

To the intelligent and reflecting, it is needless to offer any further explanation or apology for an apparent omission. The *BRITISH NEPOS* has now been before the public for the space of more than twenty years: it has run through *TWELVE* editions of several thousand copies each; and, on the application of the very respectable publishers, in whom the property is vested, the Author has carefully revised the original work, and made such alterations and additions, as, to the best of his judgment, would be creditable to himself and beneficial to others. It is his wish, should health and life be vouchsafed by the Great Disposer of events — and he considers it as a duty which he owes to an indulgent public for its almost unequalled encouragement — to render his publications for the use of Schools and Young Persons, as they may again issue from the press, as correct and as complete as their respective objects and price will allow. The present work has probably received his last improvements; and therefore he is anxious to sanction this *THIRTEENTH* edition with his name.

W. MAVOR.

APPENDIX:
CONTAINING
A BRIEF CHRONOLOGICAL VIEW
OF
ENGLISH HISTORY.

**FROM THE END OF THE HEPTARCHY TO THE
PRESENT TIME.**

EGBERT, seventeenth King of the West Saxons, and **FIRST King of the ENGLISH**, began his reign in 799. He conquered Kent, and laid the foundation of the **SOLE MONARCHY of ENGLAND** in 823, which put an end to the **SAXON HEPTARCHY**, and was solemnly crowned at Winchester; when, by his edict, in 827, he ordered all the south of the island to be called England. He died Feb. 4. 837, and was buried at Winchester.

ETHELWOLF, eldest son of Egbert, succeeded his father, notwithstanding, at the time of Egbert's death, he was bishop of Winchester. In 846, he ordained tithes to be collected, and exempted the clergy from regal tributes. He visited Rome in 847, confirmed the grant of Peterpence, and agreed to pay Rome 300 marks per annum. His son Ethelbald obliged him to divide the sovereignty with him, 856. He died Jan. 13. 857, and was buried at Winchester.

ETHELBALD II., eldest son of Ethelwolf, succeeded in 857. He died Dec. 20. 860, and was buried at Sherborne, but removed to Salisbury.

ETHELBERT II., second son of Ethelwolf, succeeded in 860, and was greatly harassed by the Danes, who were repulsed and vanquished. He died in 866, was buried at Sherborne, and was succeeded by

ETHELRED I., third son of Ethelwolf, who began his reign in 866, when the Danes again harassed his kingdom. In 870, they destroyed the monasteries of Bradney, Crowland, Peterborough, Ely, and Huntingdon, when the nuns of Coldingham defaced themselves to escape pollution; and in East Anglia they murdered Edmund, at Edmundsbury, in Suffolk. Ethelred overthrew the Danes,

871, at Assendon. He fought nine battles with the Danes in one year, was wounded at Wittingham, which occasioned his death, April 27. 872, and was buried at Winborne, in Dorsetshire.

ALFRED, the youngest son of Ethelwolf, succeeded in 872, in the 22d year of his age ; was crowned at Winchester, and is distinguished by the title of Alfred the Great. He was born at Wantage, in Berkshire, 849, and obliged to take the field against the Danes within one month after his coronation, at Wilton, in Oxfordshire. He fought seven battles with them in 876. In 877, another succour of Danes arrived, and Alfred was obliged to disguise himself in the habit of a shepherd, in the isle of Aldersey, in Somersetshire : till in 878, collecting his scattered friends, he attacked and defeated them in 879, when he obliged the greatest part of their army to quit the island : in 897 they went up the river Lea, and built a fortress at Ware, where king Alfred turned off the course of the river, and left their ships dry ; which obliged the Danes to remove. He died Oct. 28. 899. He formed a body of laws, afterwards made use of by Edward the Confessor, which was the ground-work of the present. He divided his kingdom into shires, hundreds, and tithings ; and obliged his nobles to bring up their children in learning ; and, to induce them thereto, admitted none into office, unless they were learned ; and to enable them to procure that learning, he is said to have founded or restored the university of Oxford. He was buried at Winchester.

EDWARD the Elder, his son, succeeded him, and was crowned at Kingston-upon-Thames, in 899. In 911, Llewellyn, prince of Wales, did homage to Edward for his principality. He died at Faringdon, in Berkshire, in 929, and was buried at Winchester.

ATHELSTAN, his eldest son, succeeded him ; and was crowned, with far greater magnificence than usual, at Kingston-upon-Thames, in 929. In 937 he defeated two Welsh princes ; but soon after, on their making submission, he restored their estates to them. He escaped being assassinated in his tent, 938 ; which he revenged by attacking his enemy ; when five petty sovereigns, twelve dukes, and an army who came to the assistance of Analf, king of Ireland, were slain in a battle fought near Dunbar, in Scotland. He made the princes of Wales tributary, 939 ; and died Oct. 17. 940, at Gloucester.

EDMUND I., the fifth son of Edward the Elder, succeeded at the age of 18; and was crowned king, at Kingston-upon-Thames, in 940. On May 26. 947, in endeavouring to separate two persons who were quarrelling, he received a wound, of which he bled to death, and was buried at Glastonbury.

EDRED, his brother, aged 23, succeeded in 947, and was crowned at Kingston-upon-Thames, the 17th of August. He died in 955, and was buried at Winchester.

EDWY, the eldest son of Edmund, succeeded, and was crowned at Kingston-upon-Thames, in 955. He had great dissensions with the clergy, and banished Dunstan their ringleader; which occasions little credit to be given to his character as drawn by the priests. He died of grief in 959, after a turbulent reign of four years, and was buried at Winchester.

EDGAR, at the age of sixteen, succeeded his brother, and was crowned at Kingston-upon-Thames, in 959, and again at Bath in 972. He imposed on the princes of Wales a tribute of wolves' heads, which, for three years, amounted to 300 each year. He obliged eight tributary princes to row him in a barge on the river Dee, in 973. He died July 1. 975, and was buried at Glastonbury.

EDWARD the Martyr, his eldest son, succeeded him, being but 16 years of age; was crowned by Dunstan, at Kingston-upon-Thames, in 975. He was stabbed, by the instructions of his mother-in-law, as he was drinking, at Corfe-castle, in the isle of Purbeck, in Dorsetshire, on March 18. 979. He was first buried at Wareham, without any ceremony; but removed three years after, in great pomp, to Shaftesbury.

ETHELRED II., succeeded his half-brother, and was crowned at Kingston-upon-Thames on April 14. 979. In 982 his palace, with great part of London, was destroyed by a dreadful fire. England was ravaged by the Danes, who, 999, received at one payment about sixteen thousand pounds, raised by a land-tax called Danegelt. A general massacre of the Danes on Nov. 13. 1002. Swain revenged his countrymen's deaths 1003; and did not quit the kingdom till Ethelred had paid him thirty-six thousand pounds, which he the year following demanded as an annual tribute. In the spring of 1003, they subdued great part of the kingdom. To stop their progress, it was agreed in 1012 to pay the Danes forty-eight thousand

pounds to quit the kingdom. In the space of 20 years, they received four hundred and sixty-nine thousand six hundred and eighty-seven pounds sterling. Soon after, Swain entered the Humber again; when Ethelred retired to the Isle of Wight, and sent his sons, with their mother Emma, into Normandy, to her brother; and Swain took possession of the whole kingdom in 1013.

SWAIN was proclaimed king of England in 1013, and no person disputed his title. His first act of sovereignty was an insupportable tax, which he did not live to see collected. He died Feb. 3. 1014, at Thetford, in Norfolk.

CANUTE, his son, was proclaimed March, 1014; and endeavouring to gain the affections of his English subjects, but without success, retired to Denmark, when

ETHELRED returned at the invitation of his subjects. Canute also returned the year after he had left England, and landed at Sandwich. Ethelred retired to the north; but by avoiding a battle with the Danes he lost the affections of the subjects, and, retiring to London, expired in 1016.

EDMUND, surnamed IRONSIDE, his son, was crowned at Kingston-upon-Thames, April, 1016; but from a disagreement among the nobility, Canute was likewise crowned at Southampton. In June following, Canute totally routed Edmund, at Assendon in Essex, who soon after met Canute in the Isle of Alderney, in the Severn, where a peace was concluded, and the kingdom divided between them. Edmund did not survive above a month after; being murdered at Oxford, before he had reigned a year. He left two sons and two daughters; from one of the daughters James I. of England was descended, and from him George III.

CANUTE was re-established 1017; he made an alliance with Normandy, and married Emma, Ethelred's widow, 1018; made a voyage to Denmark, attacked Norway, and took possession of the crown, 1028; died at Shaftesbury, 1036; and was buried at Winchester.

HAROLD I., his son, began his reign 1036; died April 14. 1039, and was succeeded by his younger brother

HARDICANUTE, king of Denmark, who died at Lambeth 1041; was buried at New Winchester, and succeeded by a son of queen Emma by her first husband, Ethelred II.

EDWARD the Confessor was born at Islip, Oxford-

shire, and began his reign in the 40th year of his age. He was crowned at Winchester 1042; married Editha, daughter of Godwin earl of Kent, 1043; remitted the tax of Danegelt, and was the first king of England that touched for the king's-evil, 1058; died Jan. 5. 1066, aged 65; and was buried at Westminster-abbey, which he rebuilt, where his bones were enshrined in gold, and set with jewels, in 1206. Emma, his mother, died 1052. He was succeeded by

HAROLD II., son of the earl of Kent, who began his reign 1066; was defeated by his brother Tosti, and the king of Norway, who had invaded his dominions, at Stamford, Sept. 25. 1066; killed by the Normans under William, at Hastings, Oct. 14. following.

WILLIAM I., duke of Normandy, a descendant of Canute, born 1027; paid a visit to Edward the Confessor, in England, 1051; betrothed his daughter to Harold II., 1058; made a claim of the crown of England, 1066; invaded England, landed at Pevensey in Sussex, the same year; defeated the English troops at Hastings on Oct. 14. 1066, when Harold was slain, and William assumed the title of Conqueror. He was crowned at Westminster, Dec. 29. 1066; invaded Scotland, 1072; subverted the English constitution, 1074; refused to swear fealty to the Pope for the crown of England; was wounded by his son Robert, at Gerberot in Normandy, 1079; invaded France 1086; soon after fell from his horse, and contracted a rupture; died at Hermentrude, near Rouen in Normandy, 1087; was buried at Caen; succeeded in Normandy by his eldest son Robert, and in England by his second son

WILLIAM II., born 1057; crowned at Westminster, Sept. 27. 1087; invaded Normandy with success, 1090; killed by accident as he was hunting in the New Forest, by sir Walter Tyrrel, Aug. 1100, aged 43; buried at Winchester, and succeeded by his brother

HENRY I., born 1068, crowned Aug. 5. 1100; married Matilda, daughter of Malcolm king of Scots, Nov. 11. following; made peace with his brother Robert. 1101; invaded Normandy, 1105; attacked by Robert, whom he defeated, took prisoner, and sent to England, in 1107; betrothed his daughter Maude to the emperor of Germany, 1109; challenged by Lewis of France, 1117; his eldest son and two others of his children shipwrecked and lost, with 180 of his nobility, in coming from Normandy,

1120; in quiet possession of Normandy, 1129; surfeited himself with eating lampreys, at Lyons, near Rouen in Normandy, and died Dec. 1. 1135, aged 68; his body was brought over to England, and buried at Reading. He was succeeded by his nephew Stephen, third son of his sister Adela, by the earl of Blois. He left one hundred thousand pounds in cash, besides plate and jewels to an immense value.

STEPHEN, born 1105; crowned Dec. 2. 1135: taken prisoner at Lincoln by the earl of Gloucester, Maude's half-brother, Feb. 1141, and put in irons at Bristol, but released in exchange for the earl of Gloucester, taken at Winchester; made peace with Henry, Maude's son, 1153; died of the piles, Oct. 25. 1154, aged 50; was buried at Feversham, and succeeded by Henry, son of Maude.

HENRY II., grandson of Henry I., born 1133, began his reign in 1154; arrived in England, Dec. 8. and was, with his queen Eleanor, crowned at London the 19th of the same month; crowned at Lincoln, 1158; again at Worcester, 1159; quelled the rebellion in Maine, 1166; had his son Henry crowned king of England, 1170; invaded Ireland, and took possession of it, 1172; imprisoned his queen on account of Rosamond, his concubine, 1173; did penance at Becket's tomb, July 8. 1174; took the king of Scotland prisoner, and obliged him to give up the independency of his crown, 1175; named his son, John, Lord of Ireland, 1176; had, the same year, an amour with Alice, of France, the intended princess of his son Richard, 1181; lost his eldest son Henry, June 11. 1183; his son Richard rebelled, 1185; his son Jeffery trodden under foot, and killed, at a tournament at Paris, 1186; made a convention with Philip of France to go to the Holy war, 1188; died with grief at the altar, cursing his sons, July 6. 1189, aged 56: was buried at Fonteverard, in France, and succeeded by his son Richard.

RICHARD I. was born at Oxford, 1157, crowned at London, Sept. 3. 1189; set out on the crusade, and joined Philip of France, on the plains of Vezelay, June 29. 1190; took Messina the latter end of the year; married Berengera, daughter of the king of Navarre, May 12. 1191; defeated the Cyprians, 1191; taken prisoner near Vienna, on his return home, by the duke of Austria, Dec. 20. 1192; ransomed for forty thousand pounds, and set at liberty, 1193; returned to England, March 20. following;

wounded with an arrow, at Chaluz, near Limoges in Normandy, and died April 6. 1199; buried at Fonteverard, and was succeeded by his brother

JOHN, the youngest son of Henry II., born at Oxford, Dec. 24. 1166; was crowned May 27. 1199; divorced his wife Avis, and married Isabella, daughter of the count of Angoulesme; went to Paris 1200; besieged the castle of Mirable, and took his nephew Arthur prisoner, Aug. 1. 1202, whom he murdered; the same year he was expelled the French provinces, and recrowned in England; imprisoned his queen, 1208; banished all the clergy in his dominions, 1208; was excommunicated, 1209; landed in Ireland, June 8. 1210; surrendered his crown to Pandolf, the pope's legate, May 25. 1213; absolved, July 20. following; obliged by his barons to sign and confirm *MAGNA CHARTA*, 1215; lost his treasure and baggage in passing the marshes of Lynn, 1216; died at Newark, Oct. 18. 1216; was buried at Worcester, and succeeded by his son

HENRY III., born Oct. 1. 1207; crowned at Gloucester, Oct. 28. 1216; received homage from Alexander of Scotland, at Northampton, 1218; crowned again at Westminster, after Christmas, 1219; married Eleanor, daughter of the count of Provence, Jan. 14. 1236; pledged his crown and jewels for money, when he married his daughter Margaret to the king of Scots, 1242; obliged by his nobles to resign the power of a sovereign, and sell Normandy and Anjou to the French, 1258; shut himself up in the Tower of London, for fear of his nobles, 1261; taken prisoner at Lewes, May 14. 1264; wounded at the battle of Evesham, 1265; died of old age at St. Edmundsbury, Nov. 16. 1272; and was succeeded by his son

EDWARD I., born June 16. 1239; married Eleanor, princess of Castile, 1253; succeeded to the crown, Nov. 16. 1272; wounded in the Holy Land with a poisoned dagger; recovered, and landed in England, July 25. 1274; crowned at Westminster, Aug. 19. following, with his queen; went to France, and did homage to the French king, 1279; reduced the Welsh princes, 1282; Eleanor, his queen, died of a fever on her journey to Scotland, at Hornby, in Lincolnshire, 1296, and was conveyed to Westminster, (when elegant stone crosses were erected at each place where the corpse rested;) married Margaret, sister to the king of France, Sept. 12. 1299; conquered Scotland, 1299, and brought to England their coronation

chair, &c. and died of a flux at Burgh upon the Sands in Cumberland, July 7. 1307; was buried at Westminster, where, on May 2. 1774, some antiquarians, by consent of the Chapter, examined his tomb, when they found his corpse unconsumed, though buried 466 years. He was succeeded by his fourth born son,

EDWARD II., born at Caernarvon, in Wales, April 25. 1284; was the first king of England's eldest son that had the title of Prince of Wales, with which he was invested in 1284. He ascended the throne, July 7. 1307; married Isabella, daughter of the French king, 1308; obliged by his barons to invest the government of the kingdom in twenty-one persons, March 16. 1310; went on a pilgrimage to Boulogne, December 13. 1313; declared his queen and all her adherents enemies to the kingdom, 1325; dethroned, Jan. 13. 1327; succeeded by his eldest son, Edward III.; murdered at Berkeley-castle, Sept. 21. following, and buried at Gloucester.

EDWARD III., born at Windsor, Nov. 15. 1312; succeeded to the crown, Jan. 13. 1327; crowned at Westminster, Feb. 1. following; married Philippa, daughter of the earl of Hainault, Jan. 24. 1327; claimed the crown of France, 1329; confined his mother Isabella, and caused her favourite, earl Mortimer, to be hanged, Nov. 23. 1330; defeated the Scots at Halidown, 1339; invaded France, and pawned his crown and jewels for fifty thousand florins, 1340; quartered the arms of England and France, 1341; first made the distinction between the Lords and Commons, 1342; defeated the French at Cressy, thirty thousand slain, among whom was the king of Bohemia, 1346; his queen took the king of Scotland prisoner, and slew twenty thousand Scots the same year; Calais besieged and taken, Aug. 16. 1347; and St. Stephen's chapel, now the House of Commons, built 1347; the order of the Garter instituted, 1349; the French defeated at Poitiers, their king and prince taken, and the king of Navarre imprisoned, 1356; the king of Scotland ransomed for one hundred thousand pounds, 1357; in which year Edward lost his eldest son, the illustrious Edward, the black prince, of a consumption; the king of France ransomed for three hundred thousand pounds, 1359; four kings entertained at the Lord Mayor's feast, viz. of England, France, Scotland, and Cyprus, 1364; Philippa, his queen, died at Windsor, Aug. 16. 1369, and was buried at Westminster;

Edward died at Richmond, June 21. 1377; and was succeeded by his grandson,

RICHARD II., born at Bourdeaux, Jan. 6, 1367; had two royal godfathers, the kings of Navarre and Majorca; made guardian of the kingdom, Aug. 30. 1372; created prince of Wales, 1376; succeeded his grandfather, Edward III., June 21. 1377, when not seven years old; the rebellion of Wat Tyler and Jack Straw, 1378; married Anne, sister to the emperor of Germany, and king of Bohemia, Jan. 1382, who died without issue, at Shene, and was buried in Westminster-abbey, Aug. 3. 1395; married Isabella, daughter to the king of France, 1396. He was taken prisoner by Henry duke of Lancaster, his cousin, and sent to the Tower, Sept. 1. 1399; resigned his crown, Sept. 29. following, and was succeeded by Henry IV. Richard was murdered in Pomfret-castle, Jan. 1400, and buried at Langley, but afterwards removed to Westminster.

HENRY IV., duke of Lancaster, grandson of Edward III., born 1367; married Mary, the daughter of the earl of Hereford, who died 1394, before he obtained the crown; fought with the duke of Norfolk, 1397, and banished; returned to England in arms against Richard II., who resigned his kingdom, and Henry was crowned, Oct. 13. 1399, when he instituted the order of the Bath, and created 47 knights; conspired against, Jan. 1400; defeated by the Welsh, 1402; married a second queen, Joan of Navarre, widow of the duke of Bretagne, 1403; she was crowned with great magnificence the 26th of January following, and died in 1437; in 1403 the rebellion of the Percies began, suppressed July following. He died of an apoplexy in Westminster, March 20. 1413; was buried at Canterbury, and succeeded by his son,

HENRY V., who was born in 1388, and in 1412, when prince of Wales, was committed to prison for insulting one of the judges; crowned at Westminster, April 9. 1413; claimed the crown of France, 1414; gained the battle of Agincourt, Oct. 21. 1415; pledged his regalia for 20,000*l.* to extend his conquests, 1416. The emperor Sigismund paid a visit to Henry, and was installed knight of the Garter, 1416. He invaded Normandy with an army of 26,000 men, 1417; declared regent, and married Catharine of France on June 3. 1420. She was crowned

at Westminster the February following ; out-lived Henry, and was married afterwards to Owen Tudor, grandfather of Henry VII. Henry died of a pleurisy at Rouen, Aug. 31. 1422, aged 34, was buried at Westminster, and succeeded by

HENRY VI., who was born at Windsor, Dec. 6. 1421; ascended the throne on Aug. 31. 1422; proclaimed king of France the same year; crowned at Westminster, Nov. 6. 1429; crowned at Paris, Dec. 17. 1430; married to Margaret, daughter of the duke of Anjou, April 12. 1445; Jack Cade's insurrection, 1446; Henry taken prisoner at St. Alban's, 1455; but regained his liberty, 1461; and deposed March 5. following, by his fourth cousin Edward IV.; fled into Scotland, and taken prisoner in Lancashire, 1468; restored to his throne, 1470; taken prisoner again by Edward, April 11. 1471; queen Margaret and her son taken prisoners at Tewkesbury by Edward, May 4.; the prince killed in cold blood, May 21.; and Henry murdered in the Tower, June 20. following, and buried at Chertsey, aged 49.

EDWARD IV., born at Rouen, April 29. 1443; descended from the third son of Edward III., elected king, March 5. 1461; and on March 13. before his coronation, was obliged to fight the battle of Towton, in which 35,781 Englishmen were killed, and only the earl of Devonshire taken prisoner! was crowned at Westminster, June 28. 1461; sat publicly with the judges in Westminster-hall, 1463; married lady Elizabeth Grey, widow of sir John Grey, of Groby, March 1. 1464, who was crowned the 26th following. Edward was taken prisoner by the earl of Warwick, in Yorkshire, from whence he was brought to London, with his legs tied under his horse's belly, 1467; escaped, but was expelled the kingdom, 1470; returned, March 25. 1471; restored, and caused his brother the duke of Clarence, who had joined the earl of Warwick, to be drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine, 1478; died of an ague at Westminster, April 9. 1483; and was buried at Windsor, where his corpse was discovered undecayed on March 11. 1789; and his dress nearly perfect, as were the lineaments of his face. He was succeeded by his infant son

EDWARD V., born Nov. 4. 1470; conveyed to the Tower, May 1483; deposed June 20. following, and, with

the duke of York his brother, smothered soon after by order of their uncle

RICHARD III., duke of Gloucester, brother to Edward IV., born 1453; took prince Edward, son of Henry IV., prisoner at Tewkesbury, and murdered him in cold blood, 1471; made protector of England, May 27. 1483; elected king, June 20., and crowned July 6. following; ditto, at York, Sept. 8.; slain in battle at Bosworth, Aug. 22. 1485, aged 32; buried in Leicester, and succeeded by

HENRY VII., born 1455; who landed at Milford Haven, 1485; defeated Richard III. in Bosworth-field, and was elected king, 1485; crowned, October 30. 1485; married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV., January 18. 1486, who was crowned in November following; defeated Lambert Simnel, the impostor, June 16. 1487; received of the French king, as a compromise for his claim on that crown, 186,250*l.*, besides 25,000 crowns yearly, 1492; prince Arthur, his eldest son, died April 2. 1502; queen Elizabeth died in childbed, February 11. following, and was buried at Westminster. Mary, his third daughter, married Lewis XII. of France, by whom she was left without issue, and she re-married Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, by whom she had issue, and died, 1533, and was buried at St. Edmundsbury, where her corpse was discovered, September 6. 1784, in a perfect state. She was grandmother of the unfortunate lady Jane Grey. Henry married his daughter Margaret, to James IV. of Scotland, 1504; died of a decline, at Richmond, April 22. 1509, aged 51, buried at Westminster, and succeeded by his son

HENRY VIII., born June 28. 1491; married Catharine, infanta of Spain, widow of his brother Arthur, June 3. 1509; crowned June 24. following; received the title of Defender of the Faith, 1521; styled head of the church, 1531; divorced queen Catharine, and married Anne Bulleyne, May 23. 1533; Anne crowned, June 1. 1533; he was excommunicated by pope Paul, Aug. 30. 1535; Catharine, his first queen, died at Kimbolton, Jan. 8. 1536, aged 50; he put Anne, his second queen, to death, and married Jane Seymour, May 20. 1536, who died in childbed, Oct. 12. 1537; he dissolved the religious foundations in England, 1539; married Anne of Cleves, Jan. 6. 1540; divorced her, July 10. 1540; mar-

ried Catharine Howard, his fifth wife, Aug. 8. following, and beheaded her on Tower-hill, with lady Rochford, Feb. 12. 1542; married Catharine Parr, his sixth wife, July 12. 1543. He died of a fever and an ulcerated leg, at Westminster, Jan. 28. 1547: was buried at Windsor, and succeeded by his only son

EDWARD VI., born October 12. 1537; crowned, Sunday, Feb. 20. 1547; who died of a consumption at Greenwich, July 6. 1553; was buried at Westminster; and was succeeded by his half-sister

MARY, born Feb. 11. 1516; proclaimed July 19. 1553; and crowned Oct. 1. following; married Philip of Spain, July 25. 1554; died of a dropsy, Nov. 17. 1558; was buried at Westminster, and succeeded by her half-sister

ELIZABETH, born Sept. 7. 1533; sent prisoner to the Tower, 1554; began to reign, Nov. 17. 1558; crowned at Westminster, Jan. 15. 1559; Mary queen of Scots fled to England, May 16. 1568, and was imprisoned in Tutbury-castle, Jan. 1569; Elizabeth relieved the protestants in the Netherlands with above 200,000 crowns, besides stores, 1569; a marriage proposed to the queen by the duke of Alençon, 1571; but finally rejected, 1581; cruelly beheaded Mary queen of Scots, at Fotheringay castle, February 8. 1587, aged 44; destroyed the Spanish Armada, 1588; Tyrone's rebellion in Ireland, 1599; Essex, the queen's favourite, beheaded, Feb. 25. 1602; the queen died at Richmond, March 24. 1603; was buried at Westminster, and succeeded by the son of Mary queen of Scots, then James VI. of Scotland.

JAMES I., born at Edinburgh, June 19. 1566; was crowned king of Scotland, July 22. 1567; married Anne, princess of Denmark, Aug. 10. 1589; succeeded to the crown of England, March 24. 1603; first styled king of Great Britain, 1604; arrived at London, May 7. following; lost his eldest son, Henry prince of Wales, Nov. 6. 1612, aged 18; married his daughter Elizabeth to the prince Palatine of the Rhine, 1612, from whom his present majesty George III. is descended; went to Scotland, March 4. 1617; returned, Sept. 14. 1618; lost his queen, March 1619; died of an ague, March 27. 1625; was buried at Westminster, and was succeeded by

CHARLES I., born Nov. 19. 1600; visited Madrid on a matrimonial scheme, March 7. 1623; succeeded to the crown, March 27. 1625; married Henrietta, daughter of the king of France, the same year; crowned Feb. 2. 1626; crowned at Edinburgh, 1633; went to Scotland, August 1641; returned Nov. 25. following; went to the house of commons, and demanded five refractory members, Jan. 1641-2; retired to York, March, 1642; raised his standard at Nottingham, Aug. 25. following; travelled in the disguise of a servant, put himself into the hands of the Scots, at Newark, May 5. 1646, who sold him for 200,000*l.*, Aug. 8. following; seized by Col. Joice, at Holmby, June 3. 1647; escaped from Hampton-court, and retreated to the Isle of Wight, July 29. 1648; closely confined in Hurst-castle, Dec. 1. following; removed to Windsor-castle, Dec. 23.; to St. James's-house, Jan. 19. 1649; brought to trial the next day, condemned the 27th, beheaded at Whitehall the 30th, aged 48, and buried in St. George's-chapel, Windsor, where his body was lately discovered; his queen, Henrietta, died at Paris, Aug. 30. 1669.

OLIVER CROMWELL, the Usurper, was born at Huntingdon, April 25. 1599; chosen member of parliament for Huntingdon, 1628; raised to the rank of colonel, 1643; went over to Ireland with his army, July 1649; returned, May 1650; made Protector for life, Dec. 12. 1653; re-admitted the Jews into England, in 1656, after their expulsion 365 years; refused the title of king, May 8. 1657; died at Whitehall, Sept 3. 1658; and succeeded by his son

RICHARD CROMWELL, proclaimed protector, Sept. 4. 1658; deposed April 22. 1659; died at Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, July 2. 1712, aged 82.

CHARLES II. born May 29. 1630; escaped from St. James's, April 23. 1648; landed in Scotland, 1650; crowned at Scone, Jan. 1. 1651; defeated at the battle of Worcester, 1651; landed at Dover, May 20. 1660, and restored to the throne; crowned, April 13. 1661; married Catharine, infanta of Portugal, May 21. 1662; accepted the city freedom, Dec. 13. 1674; died Feb. 6. 1685, aged 54, of an apoplexy, was buried at Westminster, and was succeeded by his brother James. Catharine his queen died, Dec. 21. 1705.

JAMES II. born October 15. 1633; married Ann Hyde, Sept. 1660, who died 1671; married the princess

of Modena, November 21. 1673; succeeded to the throne, February 6. 1685; Monmouth, natural son to Charles II. landed in England, June 11. 1685; proclaimed king at Taunton, in Somersetshire, June 20. following; defeated near Bridgewater, July 5.; beheaded on Tower-hill, July 15. following, aged 35; James's queen had a son born June 10. 1688; fled from his palace, Dec. 12. 1688; was seized soon after at Feversham, and brought back to Whitehall; left England, Dec. 23. following; landed at Kinsale in Ireland, March 12. 1689; returned to France, July 1690; died at St. Germain's, August 6. 1701.

WILLIAM III. Prince of Orange, born Nov. 4. 1650; created Stadtholder, July 3. 1672; married the princess Mary of England, Nov. 4. 1677; landed at Torbay, in England, with an army, Nov. 4. 1688; declared king of England, Feb. 13. 1689; crowned with the queen, April 11. 1689; landed at Carrickfergus, June 14. 1690, and defeated James II. at the battle of the Boyne, July 1. following; a plot laid for assassinating him, Feb. 1696; fell from his horse and broke his collar-bone, Feb. 21. 1702; died March 8. aged 51; was buried April 12. following, and left his sister-in-law Anne, his successor to the crown.

ANNE, born Feb. 6. 1665; married to prince George of Denmark, July 28. 1683; by whom she had thirteen children, all of whom died young; she came to the throne, March 8. 1702; crowned April 13. following; lost her son, George, duke of Gloucester, by a fever, July 29. 1700, aged 11; lost her husband, who died of an asthma and dropsy, Oct. 28. 1708, aged 55; the queen died of an apoplexy, Aug. 1. 1714, aged 49; was buried at Westminster, and succeeded by

GEORGE I. elector of Hanover, duke of Brunswick-Lunenbourg, born May 28. 1660; created duke of Cambridge, &c. Oct. 5. 1706. Princess Sophia, his mother, died June 8. 1714, aged 83. He was proclaimed, Aug. 1. 1714; landed at Greenwich, Sept. 18. following; died on his journey to Hanover, at Osnaburg, Sunday, June 11. 1727, of a paralytic disorder, aged 67, and was succeeded by his eldest son

GEORGE II. born Oct. 30. 1683; created prince of Wales, Oct. 4. 1714; married the princess Wilhelmina-Carolina Dorothea, of Brandenburg Anspach, 1764; ascended the throne, June 11. 1727; lost his queen Nov.

20. 1737, aged 54; suppressed a rebellion, 1745; died suddenly at Kensington, Oct. 25. 1760, aged 77, and was succeeded by his grandson

GEORGE III. eldest son of Frederic, prince of Wales, born June 4. 1738; created prince of Wales, 1751; succeeded his grandfather, Oct. 25. 1760; proclaimed the next day; married Charlotte-Sophia, princess of Mecklenburgh-Strelitz, Sept. 8. 1761, who was born May 19. 1744; and by whom he had a numerous family. Both were crowned September 22. 1761; commenced war with the American colonies in 1775; acknowledged their independence in 1782; began a war with France, 1793; concluded a peace in 1802; war began again in 1803; celebrated a jubilee on attaining the fiftieth year of his reign, 1809; soon after which, George, prince of Wales, was appointed regent, in consequence of his majesty's infirmities; great rejoicings for the peace in 1814; battle of Waterloo, June 18. 1815; the princess Charlotte of Wales died in child-bed, Nov. 6. 1817; the queen died, Nov. 17. 1818.

THE END.

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